

THE TIMES

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Poll shows support for Princess

Royal Family declines in public esteem

By PETER RIDDELL

PUBLIC respect for the Royal Family has slipped below that for teachers and social workers, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*. But a separate poll shows that the Princess of Wales, at least, has public support.

The *Times* MORI poll, undertaken before the *Panorama* interview with the Princess on Monday, shows that respect for the Royal Family has dropped more sharply during the 1990s than that for any profession. It now stands below doctors, policemen, teachers, social workers and civil servants.

However, the Royal Family is still more respected than councillors, trade union leaders, company directors, estate agents, journalists and MPs. The findings underline the cumulative impact on public attitudes of the series of startling disclosures about the marital problems of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of York.

On Wednesday, shows that the Princess of Wales has the support of most of the public. Two-thirds of those questioned believe that she was right to discuss her life in the way she did, and a similar number think it will be benefit rather than harm her.

At least three-quarters thought she appeared caring, lonely, thoughtful and sad, more than two-thirds honest, with less than a third viewing her as cunning. Nearly three-quarters think the Princess has been badly treated by the Royal Family as a whole, while three-fifths think the couple should get divorced. A similar proportion believe that, if Prince Charles then married Camilla Parker Bowles, he should not become King.

More than three-quarters think that the Princess would do a good job as a world ambassador for Britain, the role she sought during Monday's interview.

By a three-to-one margin, people believe the interview

will harm rather than benefit Prince Charles, and four-fifths think it will harm rather than benefit the image of the royal family as a whole.

Only two per cent think the Princess is to blame for the break-up of the marriage: 43 per cent blame the Prince and 48 per cent blame both equally.

The poll shows that people are particularly concerned about the couple's two sons, and nearly half think that they will be harmed by the interview. A similar proportion said that the Prince of Wales should not give up his right to be the next monarch in favour of Prince William.

The longer-term poll for *The Times* on attitudes towards the Royal Family shows that respect varies sharply with age: it is lowest among 18- to 24-year-olds and highest among pensioners. There are smaller differences by region and class. Conservative supporters and people living in the South are more likely to respect the royal family than Labour loyalists and those living in Scotland and Wales. However, the level of respect is slightly lower in the middle-classes than the working classes, and among men than women.

MORI has asked people about which two or three groups they have most and least respect for. In August 1995, the respect index for the Royal Family was plus 24 points, third behind doctors and policemen. Now, the index stands at minus six points, sixth in ranking. This is the biggest change over the period for any group.

Among 18- to 24-year-olds, the Royal Family comes 12th, at minus 30 points, while, among those aged over 65, it is still fifth at plus 10 points.

The poll shows that MPs are bottom of the list, just below journalists and estate agents. There has been no change since 1989 in the ranking of estate agents, possibly because they are less criticised when the housing market is sluggish than when it is booming.

MORI details, page 12



The Princess strokes the hair of a three-year-old boy called Augustin during a visit to a child paralysis centre

Winning hearts in Argentina

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN BUENOS AIRES

THE PRINCESS of Wales flew into Argentina yesterday and immediately set about consolidating her aim of being queen of hearts — touching, stroking and holding hands with handicapped children in a rundown hospital.

The Princess is due to visit six hospitals in two days, and she was at the first within three hours of touching down at Buenos Aires airport, looking fresh as a daisy in white after the 13-hour overnight flight from London.

At the first, she was greeted by a 12-year-old boy in a wheelchair who, by presenting a posy of flowers and making a welcoming speech in Spanish, fulfilled a long-standing ambition.

She then toured the 48 beds and visited the gymnasium where she saw 12 severely disabled children performing remedial exercises. She chat-

ted to them through an interpreter, holding the hand of first one child, then another, stroking a little girl's hair, then a little boy's arm. The tallest woman in the room, she also talked animatedly to doctors and physiotherapists.

This is the role the Princess performs best and the one, according to her *Panorama* interview, that she would like to develop as an ambassador for Britain.

But as she unfolded her long slender frame like an opening penknife from the back of the Embassy Daimler at the clinic, the crowd that shouted "Haila!" was more interested in a supermodel than an ambassador.

In the crush, however, honest citizens were vastly outnumbered by a brawl of nearly three hundred cameramen and reporters. The British Embassy, treading diplomatic water, had done little to publicise the four-day tour, claiming it is an unofficial

working visit at the invitation of Argentine medical charities. But the Association for the Prevention of Infantile Paralysis, whose clinic was the first port of call, was in no doubt that it had been chosen by the Argentine Government as a vehicle to get the Princess to the country.

Although when it was announced, the visit was hastily downgraded from "official" to "working", it has the discreet approval of the Foreign Office as a suitable primer to closer formal ties, including the Princess Royal's visit in January and President Menem's state visit to Britain later next year. Yesterday, the Princess met the Health Minister, Dr Alberto José Mazza — an indication that the trip may be more official than it appears.

The British Royal Family is a subject of endless fascination in a country that absorbed British culture and investment by the trainload in its formative years, and the *Panorama*

interview has added piquancy to the Princess's visit.

Subtitled highlights of the interview were shown on local television and have earned the Princess a degree of sympathy and even admiration. Confessions of sexual dalliance are no big deal in a country where even the President is a self-confessed "seducer", but for a woman to make such statements is another matter.

Time is running out for GMT

By ALICE THOMSON POLITICAL REPORTER

THE British could soon set their clocks in time with the rest of Europe. The Tory backbencher John Butterfill yesterday came first in the annual ballot of MPs to introduce a Private Member's Bill and within an hour decided to sponsor a Bill scrapping Greenwich Mean Time.

The Bill, which is unlikely to be opposed by the Government, would lead to the adoption of Central European Time. British clocks would stay on summer time in the winter and change to double summer time in the summer.

Mr Butterfill, MP for Bournemouth West, already has the backing of more than 170 MPs on both sides of the House, and many peers.

The Home Office has not yet decided whether to back the Bill. The Treasury is known to support change, as is the Department of Trade and Industry. More than 200 businesses have joined the Daylight Extra campaign to scrap GMT.

As Mr Butterfill has come first, there will be time for his Bill to be fully debated and MPs are likely to be given a free vote.

Mr Butterfill said yesterday: "This measure will save lives and help businesses. The police back the measure because it would save 660 deaths and serious injuries a year. It would also bring in an extra £1 billion in tourism income a year because when it's dark outside, people don't go out so much."

However, the Scottish Office is extremely resistant to the idea. It argues that businesses have coped with different time zones for years and it would complicate matters to change everything now.

Mr Butterfill said he would accept an amendment for Scotland to stay on the present time system but campaigners for change say that would be too complicated.

Soames rebuked after protests by MPs

By PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR has gagged Nicholas Soames, the Minister for the Armed Forces, amid growing protests from MPs and within the Tory party over his decision to question the state of mind of the Princess of Wales.

Yesterday the Prime Minister humiliated Mr Soames, a friend of the Prince of Wales and a former equerry, by telling MPs that he had been silenced. Mr Major had told Mr Soames to refrain from further public comment on the affair during a chance encounter in the Commons voting lobbies on Wednesday night.

Mr Major was reported last night to have lost patience with Mr Soames, who suggested that the Princess was in the "advanced stages of paranoia" minutes after her sensational *Panorama* broadcast on Monday. He made similar

comments in further broadcasts and in talks with newspapers.

Senior sources said last night that Mr Soames had clearly overstepped the rule that ministers do not become publicly involved in matters affecting the Royal Family. The Prime Minister maintained his refusal yesterday to comment on the Princess's interview, but was pinned down in the Commons by a call from the Labour MP, Andrew Mackinlay, to sack Mr Soames over his remarks.

Mr Major replied pointedly: "I do not expect any more comments." The rebuke was backed by Tory MPs and Lord Tebbit, the former party chairman and minister. Last night the 1922 Committee executive agreed to complain to the Chief Whip about the minister's attacks on the Princess.

Ireland split over divorce

The Irish Republic votes today on lifting the constitutional ban on divorce. Opinion polls show supporters and opponents of reform are evenly matched.

John Bruton, the Prime Minister, made a final appeal for a "yes" vote but the Roman Catholic Church, in particular, has mobilised heavy backing for the "no" movement. Pages 8, 21

Tories pledge more school selection

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, disclosed last night plans to encourage state schools to select more pupils by ability, as part of a radical agenda to accentuate differences from Labour. She is also moving closer to removing all secondary schools from local authority control.

Mrs Shephard will issue proposals soon for a 50 per cent increase in the proportion of pupils schools are allowed to select without applying to Whitehall for a formal change of character. The switch will appeal to those who support grammar schools and face bitter opposition from Labour, which will be anxious that some schools will be left in a spiral of decline as rivals cream off the brightest pupils.

Mrs Shephard's plans will allow 4,000 secondary schools unexpected freedom of choice. John Major suggested in a

speech in September that only grant-maintained schools should benefit from greater flexibility over admissions.

Mr Major's longer-term ambition to make all schools grant-maintained has been boosted by analysis of this year's league tables, which shows opted-out schools achieving much better GCSE results than their local authority counterparts. Figures produced for the Education and Employment Department show 44.7 per cent of pupils in grant-maintained comprehensives achieving five top grades, compared with 36.7 per cent in local authority schools.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mrs Shephard said: "We think that self-government is the way forward."

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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CAR 95
Road testing Rover's new baby
WEEKEND MONEY
What the Budget has in store for you
VISION
The seven-day TV and radio guide

Insider beats police to MI5's top job

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN LANDER, the former head of MI5's Irish counter-terrorism branch, is to succeed the director-general, Stella Rimington, when she retires next year.

Mr Lander, 48, was selected over candidates being considered from other government departments and Scotland Yard. He will take over next Easter, Downing Street announced yesterday.

The new head of GCHQ, the Government's secret communications centre in Cheltenham, was also announced. David Omand, also 48, who is currently Deputy Under Secretary for policy at the Ministry of Defence, is to replace Sir John Adaye, who retires next July.

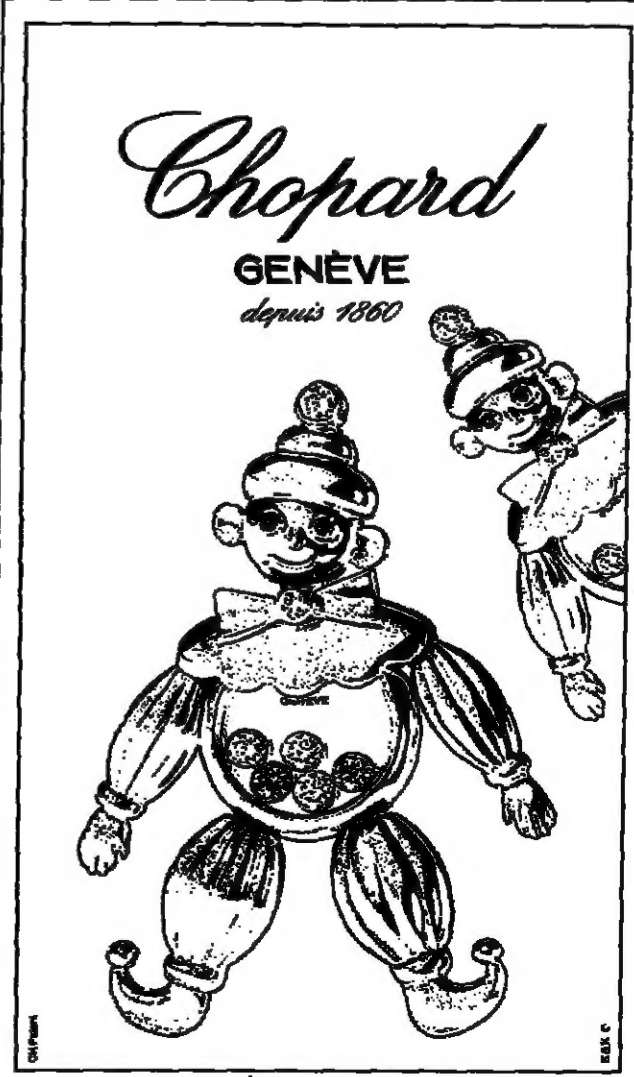
A special Civil Service selection board considered a number of potential candidates for the leadership of MI5, which employs 2,000 staff with an

annual budget of about £150 million. It is understood that although some senior police officers were considered, none appeared on the final shortlist presented to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

There had been speculation that a police officer might be chosen, partly because of the growing co-operation between MI5 and the police over countering the IRA, also because of the announcement in the Queen's Speech that MI5 is to help the police in intelligence-gathering operations to combat organised crime.

In her four-year spell, Mrs Rimington opened up the Security Service more than any of her predecessors and won a key battle to wrest prime responsibility for intelligence-gathering against the IRA from Special Branch.

Mr Lander, married with



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Bullyboy Major kicks out — and scores an own goal

PERHAPS it would have been better if John Major had kicked the sofa or the cat before scolding for Prime Minister's Questions yesterday, for he arrived in a mood to lash out.

So determined was he to lash out that it did not much matter at whom. He lashed out at a smaller boy: the leader of the Labour Party. He lashed out at a bigger boy: his own Minister, the 16-stone Nicholas Soames. And he lashed out mercilessly at someone his own size: himself. The spat with Tony Blair

was understandable, if depressingly familiar. Mr Blair said that, under Major's Government, overall tax had risen by the equivalent of 7p in the pound on the basic rate.

This is true. Let us call it Fact A. Mr Major replied that, under his Government, average take-home pay had increased substantially in real terms, and mortgage costs had been greatly reduced.

This is true. Let us call it Fact B. Facts A and B are not inconsistent with each other.

They are reconciled by Fact C: that average earnings have increased by more than average tax bills.

Even the meanest intellect in the Press Gallery understood this. Some of the MPs did too.

But it was not enough for the leaders of our two great parties. So Mr Blair repeated Fact A, rather louder and in an aggrieved tone, as though his question had been ignored, which it had.

Mr Major then repeated Fact B, in tones of rising anger, as though his answer



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

had been ignored, which it had. Each then trotted out their parboiled soundbites ("here's one I prepared earlier"; Blair's to the effect that the Tories were "a party of broken promises and unfair taxes" (true: Fact D); and Major's to the effect that few seriously believed a Labour Government would cut taxes (true: Fact E). Then each glared at the other, as though contradicted.

For a moment it looked as if each would now yell his new fact out again, even louder. Mercifully, the moment passed.

But the PM had more anger yet to express. Tony Banks (Lab, Newham North West) asked Major whether

he agreed with his Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Nicholas Soames) that the Princess of Wales was "in an advanced state of paranoia". Mr Major has always had a soft spot for Princess Diana, and looked with alarm at Labour's dangerously popular move towards becoming the Princess's Party.

He appeared on the verge of lashing out at Soames, but thought better of it, bit his lip, and replied that he would not be drawn in.

Then Andrew MacKinlay (Lab, Thurrock) brought up

the sore point again, calling Mr Soames "the Prince's butler" and inviting the PM to sack him.

Major's chivalry got the better of him. Referring to Soames he snapped: "I do not expect any more comments."

The score in these two matches was: Blair 1, Major 1; and Major 1, Soames 0. But the Prime Minister had been spoiling for another kick.

Unfortunately this was into his own goal. Challenged by Labour's Alan Williams (Con, Merthyr Tydfil) to describe, after

five years at Downing Street, the achievements of which he was most proud, Major started with inflation: when first he became Prime Minister, he said, "inflation was 9½ per cent; now it is 2½ per cent".

There was a moment's pause. Then the first giggle split the silence.

The Prime Minister had forgotten that the Chancellor from whom he had inherited this shocking rate of inflation, at 9½ per cent, was ... John Major.

Oh dear.

No compromise on disarmament

Frantic telephone calls fail to break Irish deadlock

By Philip Webster, Nicholas Watt and Martin Fletcher

JOHN MAJOR and John Bruton were trying desperately last night to avoid a collapse in their talks on the Northern Ireland peace process before next week's visit by President Clinton.

As the two Prime Ministers failed in another telephone conversation — their third in three days — to reach a compromise on the crucial issue of IRA disarmament, both sides were at pains to stress that the talks had not broken down. The two men will talk again today in an attempt to rescue their planned summit in Dublin, but the preferred date, today, has already been missed and the chances of it happening soon appear to have faded.

Even so, neither London nor

Dublin were prepared last night to rule out the possibility of a meeting over the weekend to approve an agreement that will allow the twin track peace process — setting up an international disarmament commission to oversee the dismantling of IRA arms alongside preparatory talks between the political parties — to go ahead.

The view in both capitals is that the atmosphere for Mr Clinton's visit would be assisted if a deal could be reached. But Mr Major will be wary of Unionist anger if he is seen to make serious concessions on the eve of the visit. Downing Street officials insisted last night that the Government believed it should be possible to launch the twin-track pro-

cess on the basis of the London proposals of last weekend and the talks since then between Mr Major and Mr Bruton.

Senior Irish government sources said that the two leaders had made only limited progress in their telephone conversation yesterday. The crucial stumbling block is the demand by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, backed by the SDLP leader John Hume, that the "Washington Three" condition — requiring the IRA to give up weapons before being allowed into full talks — should be on the commission's agenda.

Mr Major will not give way and cannot allow the condition to be in the formal remit, but he is prepared to accept that once the commission is established anything is likely to be raised before it. According to informed sources, the outcome will be determined by whether Mr Bruton is prepared to break free of Mr Adams and Mr Hume on the issue.

Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, conceded that Anglo-Irish negotiations faced an impasse, but he remained upbeat that the prime ministers would make progress in a further telephone conversation today.

Mr Spring told the BBC: "The reality is that we have an impasse in relation to the peace process in Northern Ireland. There is an obligation on both governments and the parties to resolve that impasse and we are doing everything possible to ensure that we can further the peace process."

President Clinton, who will become the first American president to visit Northern Ireland next Thursday, spoke to Mr Bruton on Wednesday night about the deadlock in the peace process. However, a senior White House official said that Mr Clinton was not expected to "pull a rabbit out of the hat".



Stephen Lander: takes over from Stella Rimington as director-general of MI5

Insider lands top MI5 job

Continued from page 1
two children, has had a similar career to Mrs Rimington, having worked in all the main branches of MI5. He is quietly spoken, almost shy: Mrs Rimington also had a reputation for shyness, until she became director-general.

Mr Lander, who was educated at Bishop's Stortford College and Queens' College, Cambridge, where he took a PhD in history, joined MI5 in 1975 after working for the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London.

During his early career with MI5 he worked in most of the five intelligence branches, including counter-espionage and counter-subversion. He was also in the department covering personnel, training and security, and was head of the registry of files.

Between 1989 and 1994 he was involved in counter-terrorism, ending as director of Irish counter-terrorism. He



David Omand: will have to prune GCHQ

was attached to the Foreign Office for two years, working in the Near East and North Africa department.

Since September last year, he has been MI5's director of corporate affairs, responsible for information technology and strategic planning. As director-general, he will earn about £92,000 a year.

Mr Omand's principal job as the next director of GCHQ

will be to continue pruning the agency's 6,500 workforce as increasingly sophisticated computers are installed at Cheltenham.

Mr Omand, also married with two children, began his career at GCHQ after leaving Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. However, he soon transferred to the MoD as an assistant principal, and rose to become one of the youngest deputy under secretaries in the Civil Service. He has been a member of the Cabinet Office Joint Intelligence Committee since 1992.

During his career at the MoD, Mr Omand has been responsible for many of the recent cuts announced since the end of the Cold War.

GCHQ, which has an annual budget of about £500 million, is expected to face further cuts of about 25 per cent, following a study headed by Roger Horn of Smiths Industries, which is understood to have found it overmanned and costly.

French ferries face ban in safety dispute

By Jonathan Prynn
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FRENCH car ferries could be barred from entering British ports in a dispute about tough new safety standards designed to improve the stability of roll-on, roll-off vessels.

The Government wants international acceptance of safety rules for ro-ro's drawn up after the *Estonia* and *Herald of Free Enterprise* disasters, in which more than 1,000 people were drowned when the ferries capsized.

The French are expected to oppose tough standards proposed by the British and other northern European countries at a meeting of maritime nations in London this week. These would require all ro-ro's to stay upright and afloat in rough seas even if they are holed below the waterline and have up to 50cm of water on their car decks.

Current international standards do not require ferries to be capable of surviving a flooding of the car deck, which is known to be capable of capsizing a packed passenger ferry in minutes.

The proposal, which would come into effect in 1999, is opposed by southern European nations, including France, which have condemned it as excessively costly and inappropriate for the calmer waters of the Mediterranean.

"If we make British ferries comply then we also have to find a vehicle for making French ferries comply," a Government source said. If they refused, the bottom line was that the French ferries would be banned, he said.

The ban would affect nine of the biggest ferries on the cross-Channel routes, three owned by SNAT, which operates between Dover and Calais and Zeebrugge, and six owned by Brittany Ferries.

At least seven countries, Britain, Germany, Ireland, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, are likely to impose the new standard even without international agreement.

Hitch for Howard's immigrant check

Michael Howard's plan to fine employers for hiring illegal immigrants was thrown off course yesterday when MPs revealed a serious flaw in the proposed method of checking workers' identity.

The Home Secretary said this week that the "most straightforward" check would be for companies to monitor National Insurance documents. But the Social Security Select Committee disclosed that up to 20 million spare numbers were in the system, exposing it to the risk of fraud. Almost nine million belong to people who have died.

The all-party committee criticised lax controls over the issuing of new numbers.

Widow's hope

The widow of Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, the former Tory MP for Perth and Kinross, seriously considered putting herself forward for the seat after her husband's death early this year. Lady Fairbairn believes she might have been able to hold the seat for the Tories. In the event Rosanna Cunningham, of the Scottish National Party, won with a 7,311 majority.

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Unequal in law

Fewer than one in three women solicitors feel they have the same opportunities as their male counterparts. The survey of 387 women solicitors also found that 32 per cent thought their overall reward package was likely to be less than that of male colleagues performing the same duties. However, most thought this was because of family commitments, not discrimination.

TV tax averted

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, has fought off a Treasury attempt to impose a new tax on television companies after the intervention of the Prime Minister. The Broadcasting Bill, to be published at the end of next week, will make clear that companies embarking on the digital television revolution will not be required to pay a Treasury levy.

State care fears

Elderly and infirm people will be denied access to state-funded care because new government rules are expected to be interpreted too strictly by some authorities, the Commons Health Committee said yesterday. Local health authorities have been given too much discretion to define who is eligible for state-funded care, a report by the committee concludes.

Breast cancer fall

Deaths from breast cancer in England and Wales are falling rapidly while the number of cases detected has risen thanks to improved screening, according to a report in the *British Medical Journal*. Since 1990, the death rate in women aged 55 to 69 has fallen by 12 per cent, which is thought to be due to early detection and wider use of the drug tamoxifen.

Fox defeats Right's 1922 challenge

By Nicholas Wood
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR MARCUS FOX was re-elected leader of Tory backbenchers last night as hardline rightwingers failed to strengthen their grip on the 1922 Committee.

Sir Marcus, chairman since 1992, beat off a challenge from Robert Dunn, a former Education Minister and MP for Dartford. Sir Marcus, whom Mr Dunn accused of turning the committee into a "media circus", said his more open style of leadership had been vindicated by the vote.

John Major will be relieved that control of the committee, the main channel of communication with the parliamentary party, remains in friendly hands. The only change in the make-up of the 18-strong body was the election of Sir Archibald Hamilton, a right-wing



Sir Marcus yesterday after retaining post

moderate and former minister, to one of the 12 places on the executive.

Sir Archibald, a staunch supporter of Mr Major, served on the select committee on standards in public life and was a critic of the Nolan proposals for MPs to declare outside earnings.

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GRRRIMALDI

but never miss GRRRAHAM'S



Just roll it round your tongue.

W & J
GRAHAM'S
PORT

PC who held boy's ear guilty of assault

By Kate Alderson

A POLICEMAN who grabbed a teenager by the ear when he swore at him faces disciplinary proceedings and could lose his job after being found guilty of common assault.

PC Nicholas Godber, 37, of West Yorkshire Police, was yesterday fined £300 with £300 costs by Bradford magistrates and ordered to pay £50 compensation to the teenager after the incident in Shipley in July. The court ruled that he had used unlawful force in grabbing the youth while trying to establish his name and address so that the officer could speak to his parents.

PC Godber saw the youth, who can not be named for legal reasons, with three other teenagers in Shipley town centre, the court was told. They were jumping on each other's backs and clattering into the shutters of shops. PC Godber, a serving officer

for 13 years, said he had asked the youngsters to move on but after driving around the block found them still there. He called the 15-year-old boy over to his car and asked his name but the teenager started struggling and swearing so the officer grabbed him by the ear.

"I would have been a total disgrace to every other officer in the force if I had let them get away with it," PC Godber told the court.

PC Godber denied punching the boy and pleaded not guilty to a charge of assault. Guy Hodgson, the stipendiary magistrate, said he did not accept the boy had been punched. "In days gone by the beat bobby would have received a great deal more respect. But those days are long gone and PC Godber had no lawful authority to restrain the youth as he did."

Shepherd pledge on selection

Continued from page 1
ment really does release something special in a school. These results show that grant-maintained schools have done a lot better than local education authority comprehensives, often in very similar areas, and it would be irresponsible of any government not to look seriously at that."

Work on a funding formula has been revived since Mr Major's hint that all schools might become grant-maintained. The proposal is being

considered as a key pledge for the election manifesto.

Mrs Shepherd said she would give a "fair wind" to proposals from schools wishing to select some or all pupils on academic ability. Others would be allowed to increase the numbers selected for aptitude in languages, technology, music, drama or sport.

Sir Robert Balchin, chairman of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation, said: "Many grant-maintained schools will welcome the add-

ed flexibility these changes will bring."

A Labour spokesman said: "Tinkering with admissions procedures will do nothing to address the widening gap in achievement, which should be Mrs Shepherd's first concern. Despite the worries she expressed in her Cabinet memorandum, she is still paying more attention to structures than standards."

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Dorothy's widow fo

Disgraced trader flies back to Singapore promising full co-operation over bank collapse

Leeson will face court today after voluntary return

By Jane Howard in Singapore, Andrew Drummond and Robert Miller

NICK LEESON is expected to make his first appearance before a Singapore court today after his extradition from Germany.

Mr Leeson, 29, arrived at Changi airport yesterday on board a Singapore Airlines flight from Frankfurt, almost nine months after he fled the republic.

Dressed casually in sweat-shirt, track-suit trousers and with a baseball cap worn backwards, the futures trader blamed for the collapse of Barings bank looked relaxed as he was led away by officials from Singapore's Commercial Affairs Department (CAD).

An onlooker's cry of "Keep your chin up, mate!" raised a brief smile but no comment from Mr Leeson, who was accompanied on the flight by his wife Lisa and Stephen Pollard, his English lawyer.

Mr Leeson, 26, sat a few rows in front of her husband, who was seated next to a CAD official in the business class section. He was not handcuffed and his wife was allowed to join him for breakfast and lunch.

Speaking to journalists aboard the flight, John Koh,

his Singapore lawyer, said of Mr Leeson: "There are a lot of things going through his mind, but he's not worried that he'll be made a scapegoat and he's comfortable that he'll be treated fairly."

At the airport, Mrs Leeson emerged into the arrivals hall five minutes after her husband was driven away to be photographed and fingerprinted. She later took a taxi into the city with Mr Pollard.

Mr Leeson is expected to appear before magistrates today to hear 11 charges of forgery and cheating, which carry a maximum sentence of 14 years. Mr Koh, a former director of the CAD, has indicated that his client will not have to enter a plea and it is likely that he will be remanded in custody.

Shortly after the court appearance CAD investigators will begin questioning Mr Leeson in detail about the events that led to the crash of the 233-year-old merchant bank. Mr Leeson has promised full co-operation.

A report into the \$860 million failure of Barings, published by the Singapore authorities last month, was

highly critical of Mr Leeson's bosses accusing them of "institutional incompetence" and the "total failure of internal controls".

Those most thought to blame were James Bax, regional manager of Barings' South-East Asia operations, who was Mr Leeson's immediate superior and Peter Norris, group chief executive officer, who is in Britain.

The CAD is still investigating "any possible criminal acts by persons in Singapore" and Mr Bax who remains on the island having surrendered his passport, may face charges once questioning of Mr Leeson is completed.

In the past few weeks the strategy formulated by Mr Leeson's legal advisers is that he is likely to plead guilty to some of the charges he faces and then to make a plea of mitigation.

After initially fighting extradition while being held in Höchst prison in Frankfurt, he has returned voluntarily to Singapore and co-operated with the authorities in providing evidence which might lead to further arrests. He has also apologised publicly to "all



Nick Leeson, escorted by Singaporean officials, arriving at Chang airport yesterday; his wife and English lawyer travelled with him

Singaporeans" for having doubted that he would receive a fair trial. It is thought that he is facing a prison sentence, if convicted, of four to six years, with a third off for good behaviour and he may also be allowed to take into account the eight

months spent in custody in Germany. In that case he could return to Britain having served about two years.

The speculation in Singapore last night was that Leeson will be held at a medium-security prison during his trial rather than the

high-security Changi prison for serious offenders.

A CAD statement said yesterday: "As is required by law, he [Leeson] would have to be notified of the charges and be given the opportunity to answer the charges."

"For this purpose and for questioning, he was brought to the CAD and may be held over for the night."

The German sportswear-maker Adidas AG has denied it is sponsoring Mr Leeson, who arrived in Singapore sporting a new green Adidas sweatshirt and baseball cap.

"There is no sponsorship deal," an Adidas spokesman said. Other Adidas officials, who declined to be named, choked back giggles as they said the idea that Adidas would want to be associated with an alleged financial criminal was "ludicrous".

Banned driver killed cyclist

A DISQUALIFIED driver who knocked down and killed a cyclist ten days after being released from prison for his third drink-driving offence was jailed for six-and-a-half years yesterday. The Old Bailey heard that Brendon Cheshire had been so drunk that he was not fit to be interviewed until nearly 24 hours later.

Cheshire, 35, of Barking, east London, had previous convictions dating back to his teens for dangerous driving, driving without insurance, failing to give breath specimens and driving while disqualified, the court was told. Jailing him, Judge Capstick said: "There are clear aggravating features: there is drink, there is failure to stop and there is your previous record."

Cheshire was three-and-a-half times over the legal limit for driving when he knocked David Stoten, 35, from his bicycle on a flyover in Barking in August. Lindsay Burn, for the prosecution, said, Mr Stoten, who had been going home after seeing his fiancée, was found in the road.

Cheshire had not stopped but was found beside a block of flats near by. Residents had called police after they saw his car, its windscreen smashed, mount the pavement and the driver stagger drunkenly from it. When officers arrived, Cheshire was slumped in the driving seat. "I have had an accident," he told police. His eyes were glazed and his answers incomprehensible.

The court heard that Cheshire had left prison determined not to drink, but then he had found out his girlfriend and the mother of his child wanted no more to do with him. His counsel, Joseph Giret, said that Cheshire had told him: "I found the whole world turned in on me so I turned back to drink."

Mr Giret said Cheshire, who admitted causing death by dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and without insurance, deeply regretted the accident.

Jet passengers take a detour to save hot dog

By Harvey Elliott, AIR CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH AIRWAYS jet flying from America to Britain was diverted at a cost of more than £12,000 to save the life of a dog sweltering in temperatures of up to 55C (130F) in the cargo hold.

Nearly all the 208 passengers on board the McDonnell Douglas DC-10 tri-jet voted in favour of the aircraft being diverted so that Louise, a five-year-old shih-tzu, could be rescued from the overheated hold and treated by a vet at Boston airport.

The dog was on its way from Houston to Gatwick to join Irene Saunders, 73, a Texan who had decided to make her home in the Cotswolds. She bought Louise for \$300 (about £190) and had prepared a custom-built kennel so the dog could stay happily in the hold.

Mrs Saunders flew to Gatwick the day before, then waited anxiously for Louise, whose single ticket had cost £100. "Thank goodness I was not on board myself or I

would have been going frantic," Mrs Saunders said yesterday as Louise was released from quarantine.

The captain, Rex Graveley, had tried unsuccessfully to control the soaring temperatures in the hold for two hours. "We started off with the temperature at around 55C," he said. "We assumed that it would drop as we flew higher, but it didn't. Obviously the valve which controls the temperature in the hold must have been stuck."

Worried about Louise's safety, Captain Graveley decided to ask the passengers if they minded if he diverted. "I knew that the dog had been in the hold for two hours and that if it remained there much longer it would not survive. Yet if we diverted it would mean a delay of over three hours at huge inconvenience for my passengers, so I left it to them."

Almost everyone on board raised their hands. "There were a couple who objected, but they might not have understood the problem," a BA spokesman said.

The aircraft diverted to Boston and was on the ground for three hours while vets cooled down the panting dog and kept it under observation overnight.

Yesterday Captain Graveley met Mrs Saunders at Heathrow, where he and his crew were presented with an award by the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

"Louise means everything to me," Mrs Saunders said. "I owe her life to BA, Captain Graveley and the wonderful passengers."

Two aircraft collided on the runway at Heathrow yesterday. The accident happened as a Gulf Air Airbus A340 and a British Airways 757 were manoeuvring on a taxiway. Contact was made between the wingtip of the Airbus and the lower rudder of the 757. No one was hurt.



Louise and her saviour, Captain Rex Graveley

Doctor's widow forgives boy

By Andrew Pierce

A SCHOOLBOY was jailed for six years for killing a pioneering doctor in front of his wife during a holiday in Turkey to celebrate his retirement. The family of Dr Michael Kettle last night forgave the 15-year-old murderer, whom they described as a "lost little sheep" who required psychiatric care.

Zeki Demir, who had a history of mental problems, shot Dr Kettle in the back as he and his wife were walking on the coast last June, the court in the resort town of Marmaris, southern Turkey, was told.

Seconds earlier Dr Kettle and his wife Frankie, from

Portsmouth, had offered his killer a gift of food and water, which he had rejected. They walked on a little, then Dr Kettle was shot.

Mrs Kettle said that she had forgiven her husband's killer. "He is a lost little sheep. I have no feelings of hate towards him," she said.

Dr Kettle, 60, a gynaecologist, had recently retired from St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, after a 27-year career. He had devised a pioneering triple screening programme at the hospital to detect deformity in fetuses.

Mrs Kettle, who had taken many happy holidays in Tur-

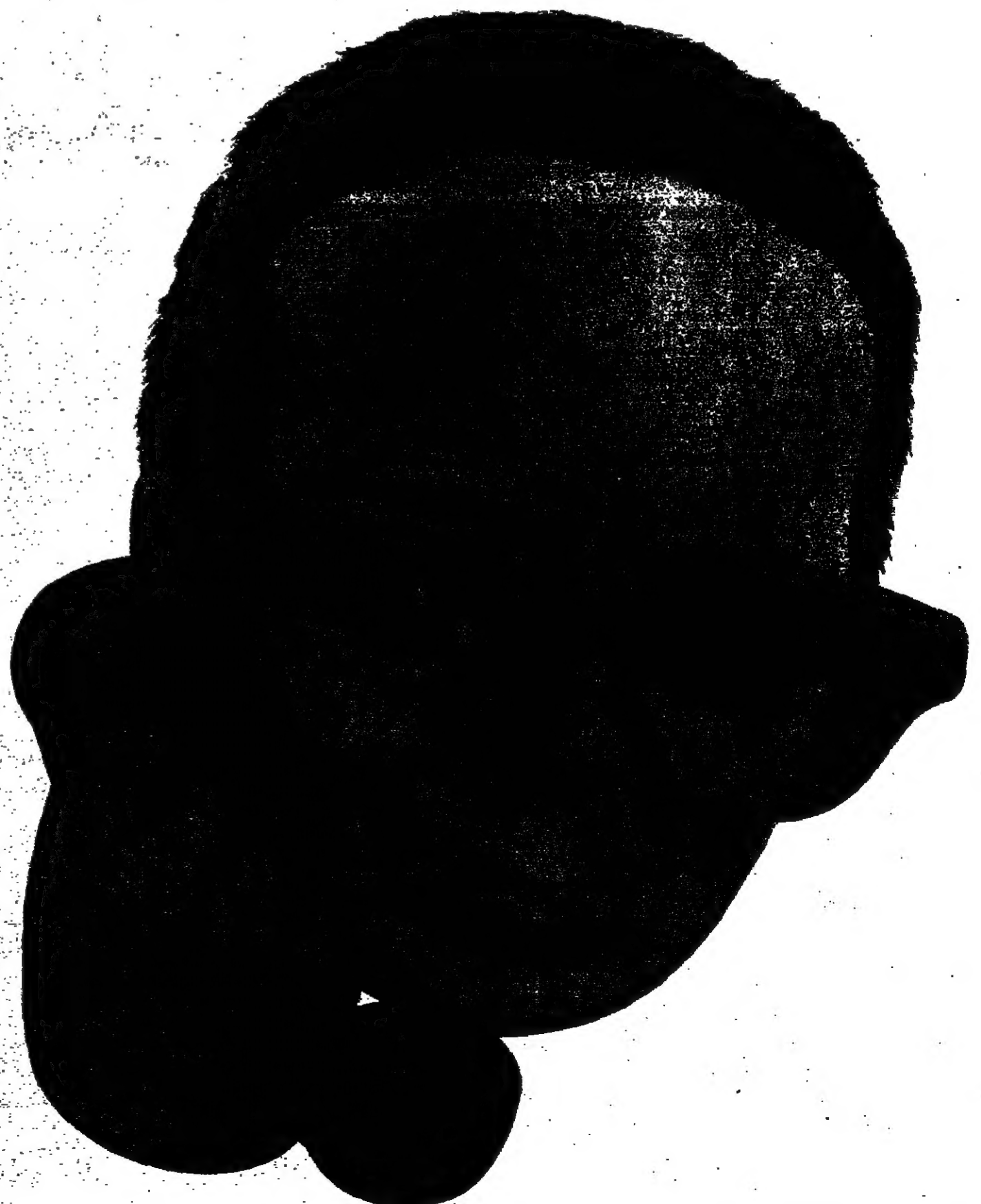
key with her husband, added: "The incident doesn't bear any relationship to the warmth and hospitality that we have had from the Turkish people."

But she admitted: "I feel anger and it's selfish anger for the death of my husband."

The governor of the province where the murder took place, in woods near the town of Ula, 19 miles north of Marmaris, had welcomed her back as his personal guest.

Demir, who was sentenced on Wednesday, was suspected by police of having burgled several foreign-owned visiting yachts. He had spent periods in a mental hospital.

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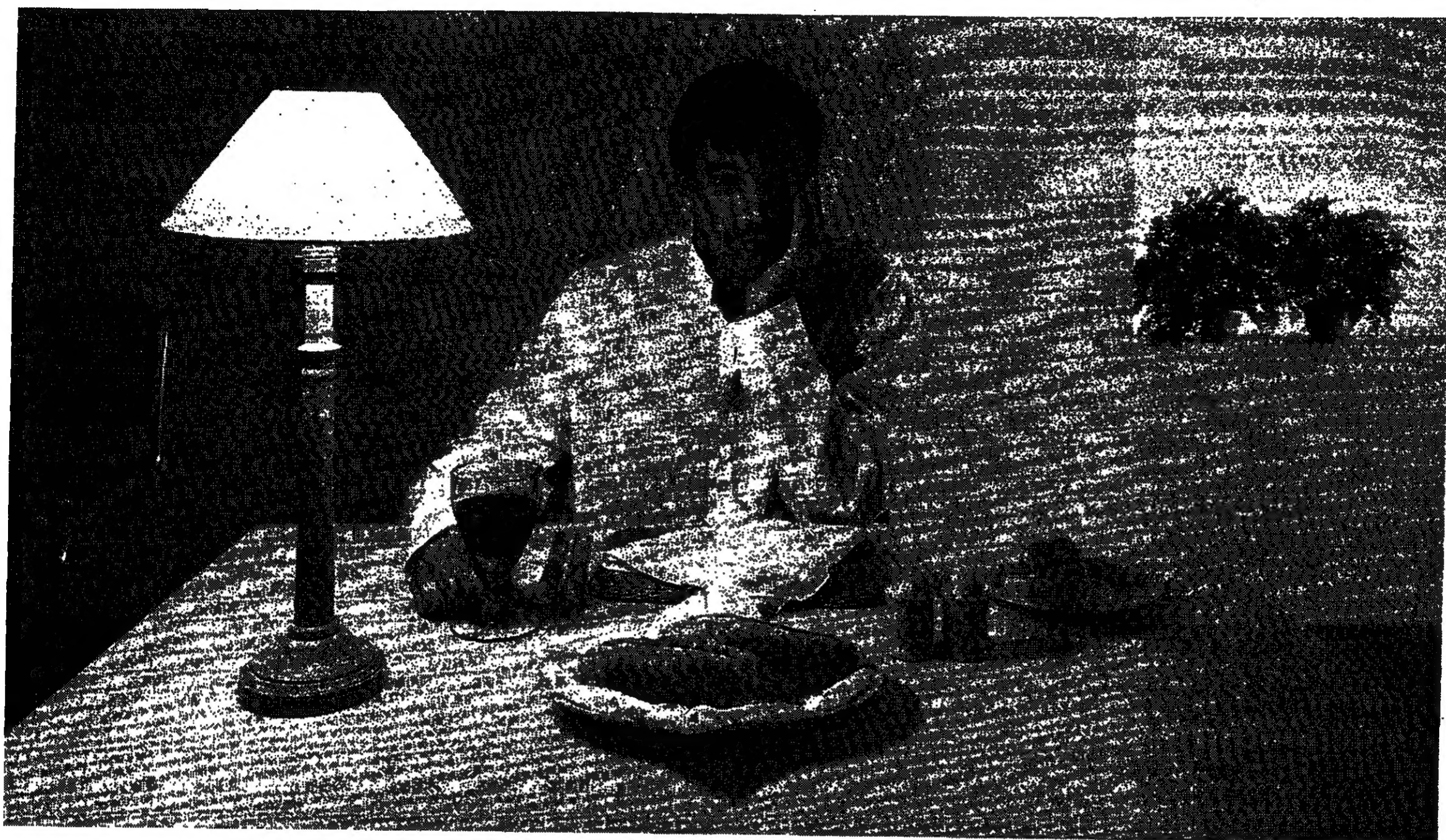
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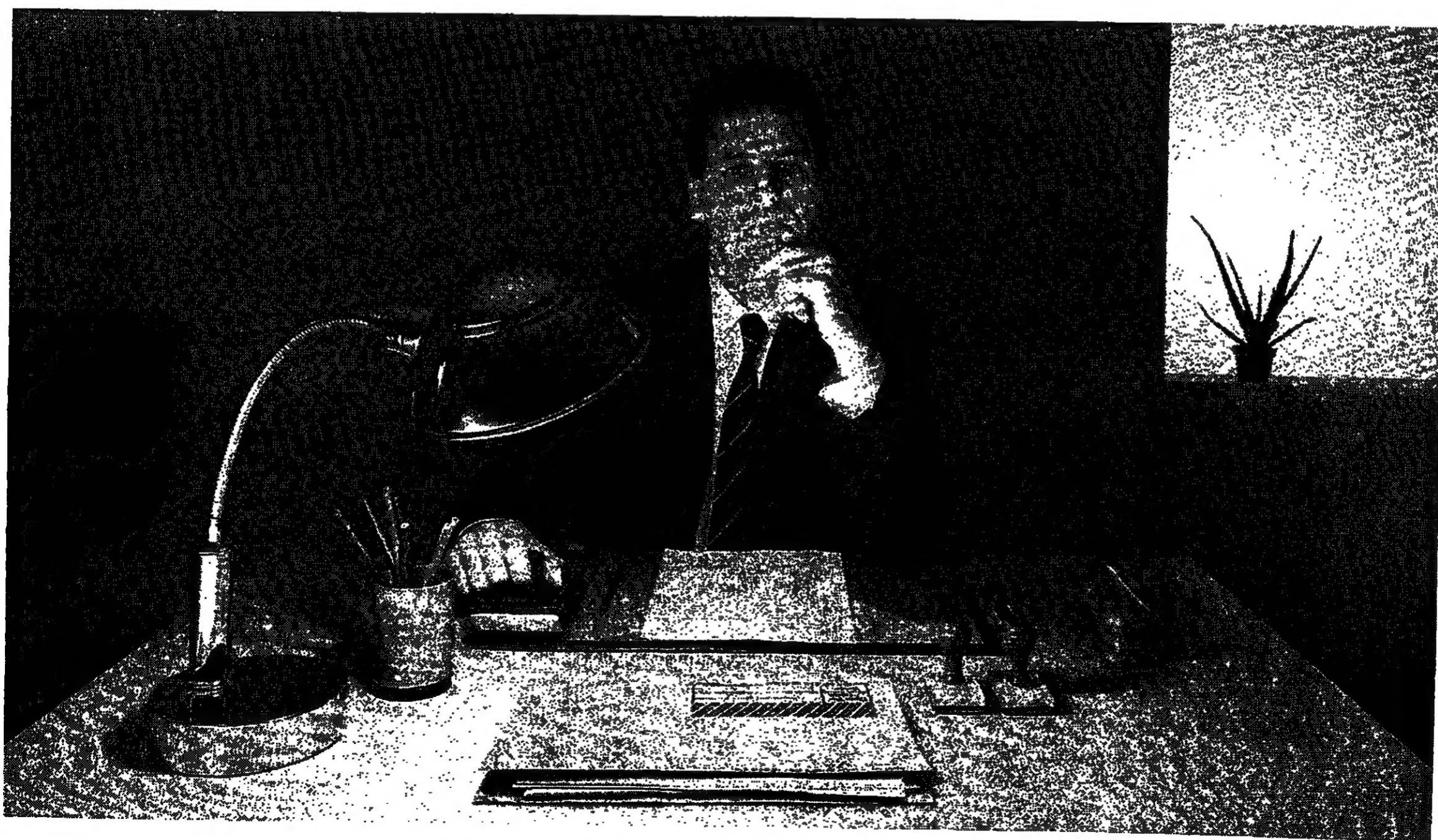
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Libel jury told of telephone calls MP's sister 'was out to get him by telling paper he was gay'

By TIM JONES

AN MP's sister hated him so much that she sought to destroy him by making allegations of homosexual liaisons in a series of anonymous telephone calls to a national newspaper, a libel jury was told yesterday.

It was claimed in the High Court that Lynne Garling was behind the telephone calls to *The Sunday Times* which sought to paint a picture of David Ashby, the Conservative MP for Leicestershire North West, as a "homosexual liar and hypocrite".

The allegations had followed the break-up of the MP's marriage to his Italian-born wife Silvana after a tempestuous and highly emotional relationship.

Geoffrey Shaw, QC, for Mr Ashby, 55, said that when confronted by a *Sunday Times* journalist his client had said of his sister: "She is a vicious, sick woman motivated by malice who despises me". Mr Shaw added: "It certainly seems she was out to destroy him." It was believed the telephone calls had been made by Mr Ashby's brother-in-law Victor, Mr Shaw said. They sought to establish that Mr Ashby was having a homosexual affair with Dr Claran Kilduff and had moved to the same block of flats in London. Noting one of the calls, a



Ashby: allegations came after marriage break-up

Sunday Times journalist wrote: "Steve rang again and spoke of two areas, sexual and financial. Many more holidays with the Irish doctor, including Goa. He is being leaned on by high-ups in the Conservative Party to avoid a by-election." Another anonymous telephone call had alleged that Mr Ashby was "a very very accomplished liar".

Mr Ashby had admitted sharing, for one night, a double bed at a chateau in northern France with Dr Kilduff but only to save money and because there had been a mix-up in obtaining a double room with two beds.

The bill for the room was made out to Dr Kilduff but had been paid by Mr Ashby. The bill, Mr Shaw told the court, had been found after it

had been put in a dustbin. He said that Mr Ashby had denied at a press conference ever having had a homosexual relationship but said he had shared bedrooms with MPs and colleagues on dozens of occasions. The MP had said: "It is much cheaper. It halves the price."

He also denied ever spending a holiday with Dr Kilduff in America although he said they had travelled across the Atlantic on the same aircraft. When the allegations had been put to Mr Ashby's brother, Brian, who lived before his death in America, he had dismissed them as "codswallop".

Mr Shaw said it was untrue, as *The Sunday Times* accepted, that Mr Ashby had gone on holiday to Goa where he had shared a bed with a male friend. Dr Kilduff's bank records had shown in November 1993 a transaction equaling the cost of the cheapest flight to India. "It was on that slender evidence that *The Sunday Times* decided to publish a story of Mr Ashby staying in a hotel in Goa with another male."

The jury was told that Mr Ashby had not been interested in sex since the late 1980s as he had to take medication that could lead to impotence.

Times Newspapers Ltd and Andrew Neil, former Editor of *The Sunday Times*, deny libel. The hearing continues.



Squadron Leader John Rands of the Red Arrows sets off yesterday for his last flight from RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, which is closing. The team will move to RAF Cranwell

Mafioso's daughter smuggled drug cash with baby

By KATE ALDERSON

A MAFIA leader's daughter who smuggled cash across Europe in her baby's car seat yesterday admitted laundering £1.6 million of illegal drug profits through British banks.

Marisa Merico, 25, daughter of Emilio Di Giovanni, who is serving 15 years in a Portuguese jail for cannabis trafficking, changed her plea to guilty on the second day of a hearing at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court.

Anton Lodge, QC, prosecuting on behalf of Customs and Excise, told the court on the first day that Merico, married to a suspected Mafia member awaiting trial on another drug trafficking charge, had become involved in the laundering operation while living with her father in Milan.

In 1991 Di Giovanni opened a bank account in Geneva and during the following 15 months she succeeded in laundering more than three billion lire of illegal drugs profits through the account. "One of the ways that was done by Marisa was through her baby child Lana," Mr Lodge said. "She would take the child in one of those car or airline baby seats, but between the seat and the baby's bottom were the lire."

Some of the money was transferred from the Swiss account to banks in England and the Isle of Man, then transferred to Merico's personal accounts.

The court was told that £80,000 of the laundered money was spent by Merico on buying a house for her and her mother, who is divorced from Di Giovanni, at Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire.

At the request of the prosecution yesterday, Mr Justice Fothergill directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty on Patricia Di Giovanni, Merico's mother, who had been co-accused with her daughter of assisting another to retain the benefit of drug trafficking.

After Merico changed her plea, the case was adjourned for inquiries to determine how much of Merico's share of the money could be confiscated by Customs and Excise.

Tumim sorry for calling JPs 'slimy'

Judge Stephen Tumim, former Chief Inspector of Prisons, has expressed his "regrets" to the Magistrates' Association for referring to "slimy" magistrates in a BBC interview. When questioned about the Home Secretary's plans for tougher sentencing, he said: "What puts off the burglar is not whether he's going to get another six months from some slimy magistrate or judge; he's concerned with whether he's going to get caught."

Fatal fast

An unlicensed taxi-driver who killed a baby in a pushchair when he blacked out while fasting over Ramadan was jailed for eight months by Leeds Crown Court. Mohammed Nazir, of Halifax, West Yorkshire, admitting causing the death of Bianca Clark by dangerous driving.

Player charged

David Hillier, the Arsenal midfielder, was bailed to appear before Crawley magistrates on three charges of theft. Hillier, Wayne Burnett, also a footballer, and Adam Old, a computer consultant, were accused of being concerned together in stealing bags and contents at Gatwick worth £3,000.

Chester stable

The condition of the entertainer Charlie Chester, who is in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital after having had a stroke, remained unchanged. Mr Chester, 62, has been in showbusiness for nearly 70 years, and presents Radio 2's *Sunday Soapbox*. The BBC has received many messages wishing him well.

Divine right

A church whose priest delivered a sermon against the National Lottery has been given £25,000 from lottery funds for repairs. John Delfoon told worshippers at St Andrew's, Greenstead, Essex, that there was more chance of Jesus Christ returning to Earth than winning the lottery.

Sailor's sex fantasy led to murder

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who fantasised about having sex at sea was jailed for life yesterday for murdering a woman who agreed to sail with him.

Denzil Walker, a member of the Royal Yachting Association, killed Julie Clayton, 27, by putting drugs in her food. Two weeks later he recruited another woman, who leapt into the River Seine to escape from him.

Nottingham Crown Court was told that Walker, 47,

picked up Miss Clayton, an Australian, as she boarded a lift near St Austell, Cornwall. Her beaten body was found two days later, naked in a ditch 300 miles away at Colby, Lincolnshire.

Nigel Rurnfitt, QC, for the prosecution, said Walker killed Miss Clayton after she refused his sexual advances. She had taken a vow of celibacy at the headquarters of the Jesus Fellowship religious group in Northamptonshire.

He crushed sleeping and antidepressant tablets and

probably mixed them into a spicy meal. She died from pneumonia after ingesting the equivalent of up to 50 tablets.

Walker, who is separated from his wife, travelled the country selling boat parts, Mr Rurnfitt said. He had "obsessive fantasies" about sex at sea and advertised in yachting magazines for female crew.

Mr Rurnfitt said Walker, of Hull, persuaded Miss Clayton to sail with him to Australia but his real motive was sex. A fortnight later he recruited Tamsin Merridew, 28, to sail

with him to Malta. She escaped when they reached France.

Walker, who had previous convictions for assault, told the court that Miss Clayton became ill after they had visited a market in Southampton. He decided to drive home to Hull but when he checked her she was dead.

He described her death as an unfortunate accident. "I wanted to take her to a church so she could be buried properly but she was too heavy to lift out of the ditch."

Fraudster, police and bank claim sports car

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A CONVICTED fraudster is fighting Scotland Yard and Barclays Bank over the ownership of a £34,000 sports car seized by police.

The Mercedes cabriolet was bought by Olusegun Adebayo, otherwise known as Julian Jonathan Joseph, before he was convicted at Southwark Crown Court, London, in August of dishon-

estly obtaining £390,000 from the bank. Police and the bank have been arguing about the car ever since.

Now Barclays has issued a writ to clarify ownership, claiming that the police have refused to hand the car over and "continue wrongfully to interfere with it".

Adebayo denies the car was bought with fraud proceeds and says it is legally still his. The Yard said the courts must decide ownership.

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Helicopter hovers as mass-murderer leaves Winchester for Durham jail

Public responds to appeal for clues by West police team

By Bill Frost

ROSEMARY WEST was under continuous observation in the hospital wing of Durham jail last night at the start of her life sentence for the murder of ten girls and young women.

As she was driven from Winchester prison to Durham, police said they had "good information" about one of the nine girls and young women who stayed at, or visited, the Wests' home in Gloucester. Known only as Marilyn, she vanished from the Matson area of the city in 1973. Det Supt John Bennett, who led the inquiry into the Cromwell Street murders, said there had been a reasonable response to the public appeal for information about the missing nine.

A helicopter hovered overhead as West, 41, was driven out of Winchester jail for the 340-mile journey to Durham in a prison service van accompanied by a police escort.

They arrived at Durham jail at 3.12pm yesterday, where West will be housed in H wing, a unit holding 43 of Britain's most dangerous women criminals. But West will spend several days in the 36-bed hospital wing where last night she was examined

by a doctor. She will be under a 24-hour suicide watch there. Myra Hindley, the Moors murderer, is also in the wing, recovering from a leg injury.

Police in Gloucester said yesterday they had no plans to search for the bodies of other young women who may have died at the hands of Rosemary and Frederick West. Mr Bennett also ruled out interviewing West in her cell at Durham jail about claims that as many as 15 more victims might be buried at various sites across the county. Asked about reports that the couple may have been part of a sex cult, he said that other people had been interviewed during the inquiry.

"If there is evidence to support arresting anyone, that person will be arrested," he said. "We don't know if we have the final total - I can't say if there are any more victims or not."

The various locations Frederick West had given as burial sites could well be bogus, said Mr Bennett. "During the course of his interviews he told so many stories and gave very different accounts on a day-to-day basis," he added. There would be little point in asking Rosemary West for help. "She

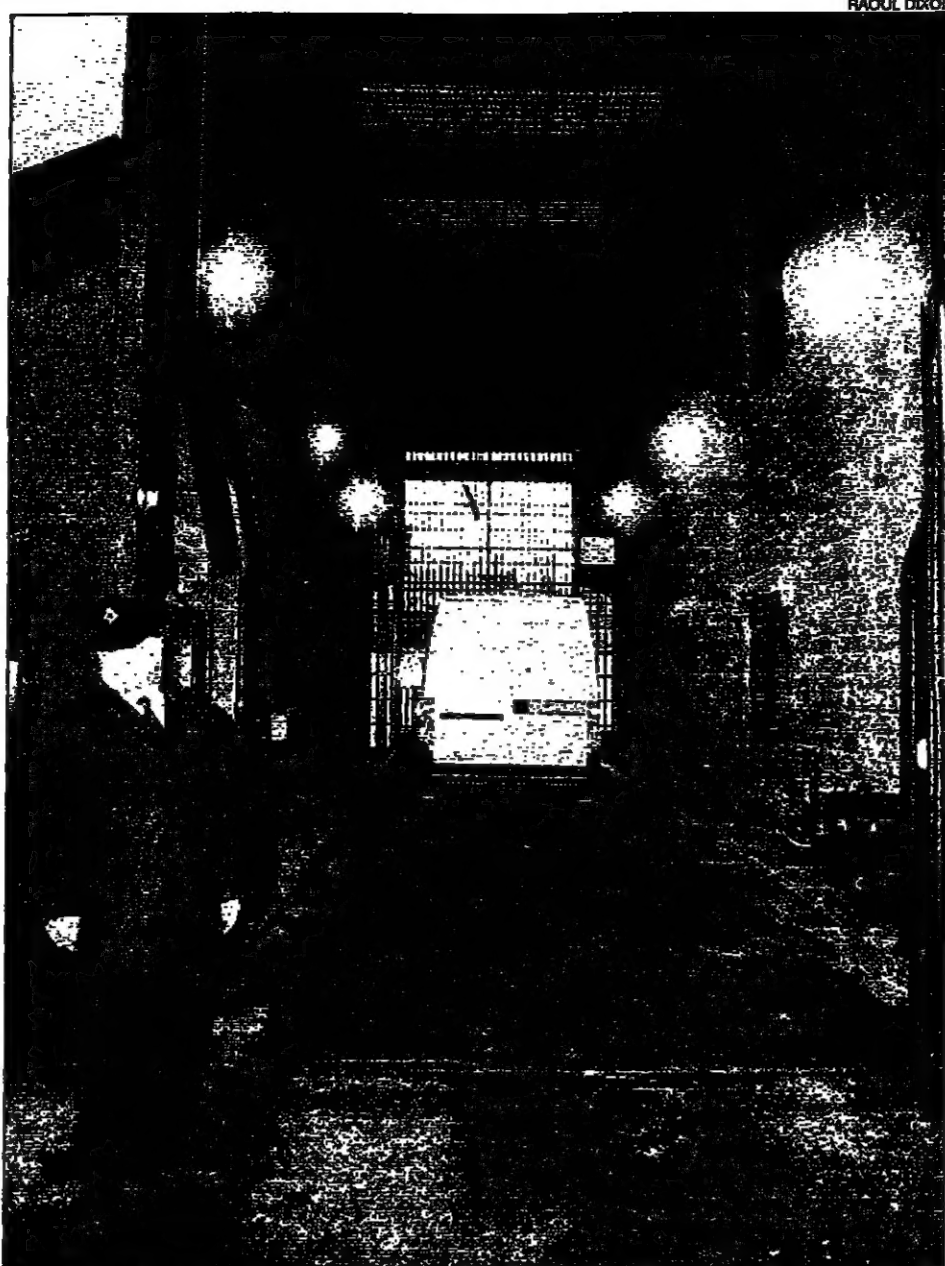
never helped us from the first day of the investigation and I cannot see her wanting to help us now."

The detective also replied to a newspaper allegation that 25 Cromwell Street had been a "police brothel" 20 years ago. "We have certainly not found out anything like that in the course of our inquiries," he said icily.

Meanwhile, Tony Butler, Chief Constable of the Gloucestershire force, said yesterday that legal advice was being sought in the case of a prosecution witness who is due to receive £100,000 from the *Daily Mirror* for her story. Janet Leach, 39, had capitalised on her role as lay observer to police interviews with Frederick West after he was arrested last year. "She was under a duty of confidentiality," Mr Butler said.

He also revealed police anxieties over the media's handling of the case. "Officers felt they were playing a Russian roulette. They could never be sure that something published the next day wasn't going to blow the case out of the water."

Valerie Grove, page 18
Philip Howard, page 20



The prison van carrying Rosemary West arriving at Durham jail yesterday

Six meningitis cases reported in Liverpool

By Kate Alderson and Edward Gorman

A HOSPITAL in Liverpool disclosed yesterday that it had admitted six children suffering from meningitis during the past month. But health officials denied there was an epidemic.

Five of the children have been sent home and only one, a five-year-old girl, remains at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital. The girl, who has not been named, is suffering from the meningococcal septicaemia strain of meningitis and is in a "poorly but stable condition".

The news came as two people from the Lincoln area, Caroline East, 14, and a man in his 40s, remained in a critical condition after developing meningitis, which has killed five people in the city in under two months.

The Liverpool hospital issued a statement yesterday saying: "We do not believe there is any close connection between the [Liverpool] cases. At this time of the year it is more common for the hospital to have meningitis cases due to people tending to be in closer proximity and germs are passed more quickly. We do not believe this is an epidemic."

The hospital released no details about the children or their treatment. Dr Martyn Regan, director of public health for Liverpool Health Authority, moved to reassure the public there were no links between the six cases. "We do

not have an epidemic in Liverpool," he said.

"The five children who have been discharged are not school friends or associates of the little girl who is still in hospital. She is from the Liverpool area but the other five children come from outside the area. They are not connected either with the outbreak in Lincolnshire."

In the Lincoln area all play groups, schools and youth clubs are to be given advice on how to identify symptoms of meningitis after local GPs were overwhelmed by calls from people worried about the disease.

Dr Roy Schofield, chair of the Lincoln Local Medical Committee, said: "There is understandably a lot of anxiety, particularly around the southern end of the city. One doctor alone had 25 calls yesterday morning from people worried about suspected symptoms. Some doctors are clearly being overwhelmed with requests for visits. We understand why people are so concerned but they must not panic."

Lincolnshire Health Authority is awaiting the results of swab tests on 300 children at the City School, Lincoln, where two 15-year-olds have died. Test results from throat swabs taken on Tuesday for pupils in years nine and ten at the school will reveal how many of them are carriers of the disease.

Outbreak shows risks of an inexact science

DOCTORS who follow the rules of medical practice laid down by the professions will usually satisfy their patients, and will certainly escape the wrath of the General Medical Council and the courts. As the public health authorities in Lincoln have found, medicine is not an exact science.

Michael Le Geyt, the consultant in communicable diseases at Lincolnshire Health Authority, followed accepted practice as determined by the national public health laboratory when he dealt with what seemed to be a lone case of bacterial meningitis at City School, and had every reason to expect no more cases. However, the measures adopted proved inadequate.

The official recommendation when there is a sporadic case of a teenager at school is that the class of the affected patient, with the teachers and any other close social friends whether from within the school or the pupil's home neighbourhood, should have prophylactic antibiotics. The antibiotic of choice is Rifampicin, which is very much more efficient than penicillin or sulphonamides as there is less bacterial resistance to it.

In comprehensive schools the definition of a class is difficult as children tend to be in different forms for different subjects and perhaps in Lincoln the boundaries of the patient's class were drawn too tightly. Once there had been other cases a different set of rules applied and the incident was then dealt with as a small outbreak. Initially the whole



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttard

of the affected patient's year and adjacent year were given antibiotics. Now the school has been treated. The parents of all the children have not been prescribed Rifampicin by the public health doctors but it is known that many GPs in the city have, of their own volition, included them.

Recent research has shown diseases spread less rapidly in day schools than in households. It is unusual to find, but a strain of meningococcus is not caught by other pupils unless they are also close friends of the carrier. Conversely, the bacterium often infects a whole household, even though most members of it will not become ill.

Families tend to sit in warm, small rooms, huddled around the same television and possibly also smoking. Smoking is a very effective way of spreading meningococcal meningitis but the bacterium is usually transmitted by droplet infection through coughs, sneezes and nose blowing and very soon colonises the throats and noses of an entire family.

Parents tend to regard school as a reservoir of infection, and their child as the carrier who brings home any

neighbourhood illness. There is some truth in this belief: schools are storehouses of infection and if any disease is doing the rounds there will be one or two cases in the school, even though most pupils may remain unaffected.

The school therefore acts as the bridge between households over which the bacterium, or viruses, cross. Once an organism has been brought home there is every likelihood that everybody, from grandparent to baby, will catch it.

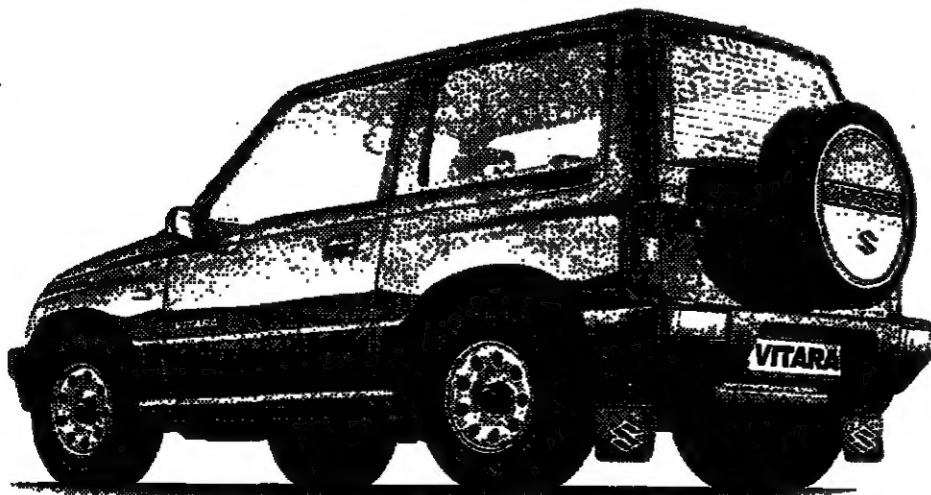
The meningococcus is an unpredictable bacterium. At any one time, 10 to 15 per cent of teenagers, and 5 per cent of adults, has the organism in their throats. Just why the bacterium occasionally causes serious infection whereas it is usually quite harmless is not understood but is presumably related to the virulence of the strain and resistance of the host.

Unlike day schools, boarding schools, barracks and any other residential institutions are always immediately treated as if they were a domestic household, and everybody who resides in the institution is given Rifampicin.

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Supporters fear repeat of 1986 'no' vote after opponents gain ground

Divorce vote splits Irish from Donegal to Dublin

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

VOTERS in the Irish Republic go to the polls today to decide whether to lift the constitutional ban on divorce. According to the opinion polls, supporters and opponents of reform are evenly matched.

After weeks of intense campaigning that has highlighted the divisions between traditionalists and modernisers, support for a "yes" vote has fallen to 45 per cent from 61 per cent in September. Support for a "no" vote has climbed steadily to 42 per cent from 30 per cent in September.

Those in favour of reform, who include every political party in the Irish Parliament, fear a repeat of the last referendum in 1986 when opponents fought back to win with 63.1 per cent of the vote.

John Bruton, the Prime Minister, issued a final appeal for a "yes" vote when he said that the referendum offered people the chance to vote for a "more pluralist and tolerant



Clare, unlike his wife he will be voting "yes"

least four years and satisfy the courts that there is no prospect of a reconciliation. Successive governments since 1986 have passed a series of Bills to deal with the division of property and custody of children — the two issues that led to the defeat of the last referendum.

However, the "yes" campaigners have seen their support ebb away in the face of formidable opposition. Opponents of divorce, including the Roman Catholic Church, say that changing the constitution would lead to the breakdown of the Irish family.

They forecast a massive increase in separations, leading to untold harm to children. One of their campaign slogans, "Hello Divorce, Goodbye Daddy", has struck a chord with many voters who fear that a "yes" vote will undermine the position of children from a first marriage.

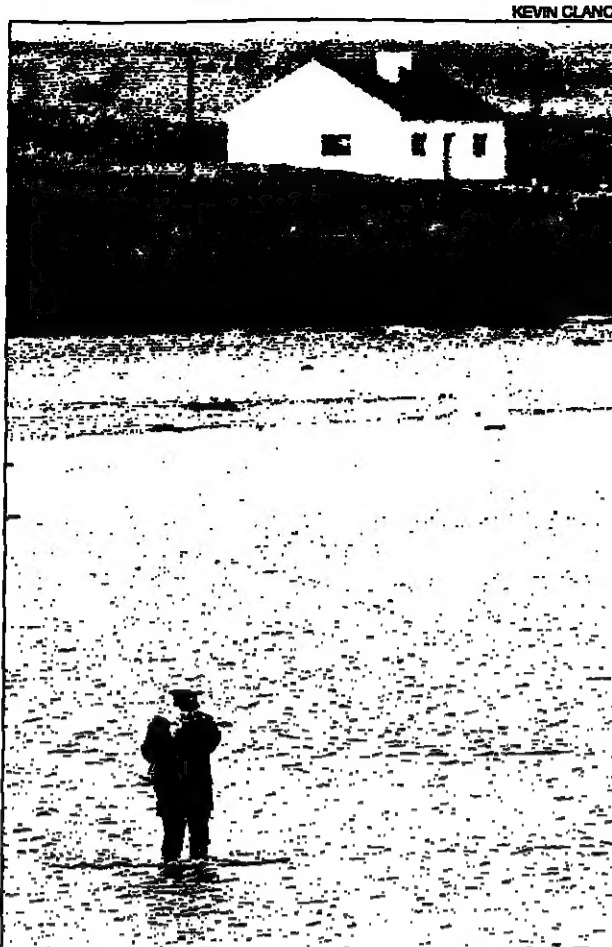
The divisions within Ireland, which have led to clashes between government ministers and the Catholic Church, is neatly summed up in the

household of Anthony Clare, Professor of Psychiatry at Trinity College Dublin and resident psychiatrist at BBC Radio 4.

Professor Clare will be voting "yes" while his wife, with whom he has had seven children, will be voting "no". Professor Clare said that the proposed changes provided a "highly circumscribed form of divorce" for couples whose marriages had died. He told the *Dublin Sunday Independent*: "I believe the amendment, in insisting on a time delay, strikes a balance which ensures that proper account is taken on the one hand of the rights of individuals to have a second chance and on the other of children to be properly protected."

Jane Clare, a writer, said: "What concerns me about the current debate on divorce is that the rights of the child within marriage are seen as secondary to the rights of the individual."

Leading article, page 21



Policeman Peadair Howley returns to the mainland carrying early votes from Inishbiggle, Co Mayo

Pensioner wins payout after heart operations

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A PENSIONER won undisclosed damages from two health authorities yesterday after enduring a series of operations caused by a faulty diagnosis.

Roy Broster, 70, had operations over five months at Guy's Hospital, central London, associated with the fitting of a device designed to jolt his heart into action whenever it detected an irregular beat.

However, his heartbeat never triggered the defibrillator, which was removed in a further operation six months later. A specialist found that he had been misdiagnosed and actually had a problem with his thyroid gland. An overactive thyroid can cause palpitations.

West Kent Health Authority said Mr Broster had suffered a heart condition and a thyroid problem. Medical experts had advised fitting the defibrillator as a safety measure; it was removed because of infection, not because it was unnecessary. He said most of the surgical procedures were related to the infection and subsequent complications.

Mr Broster had his operations four years ago. The West Kent and South East London health authorities agreed the undisclosed damages but denied liability days before the case was due to come to court. Mr Broster, of Sittingbourne, said: "I have been waiting

years for this to go to court. I think they were waiting for me to die. My wife made me carry on, and I am grateful to her for giving me strength."

Doctors at Maidstone Hospital sent him to Guy's to have the device fitted but the wound became infected. "I was dangerously ill with this device inside my chest. All I had was thyroid trouble," Mr Broster said. "I am feeling a lot better now that this machine is gone."

His wife Joan said: "Going through 12 operations would be a tremendous strain on a young man, let alone someone Roy's age. It was a terrible thing they did to him."

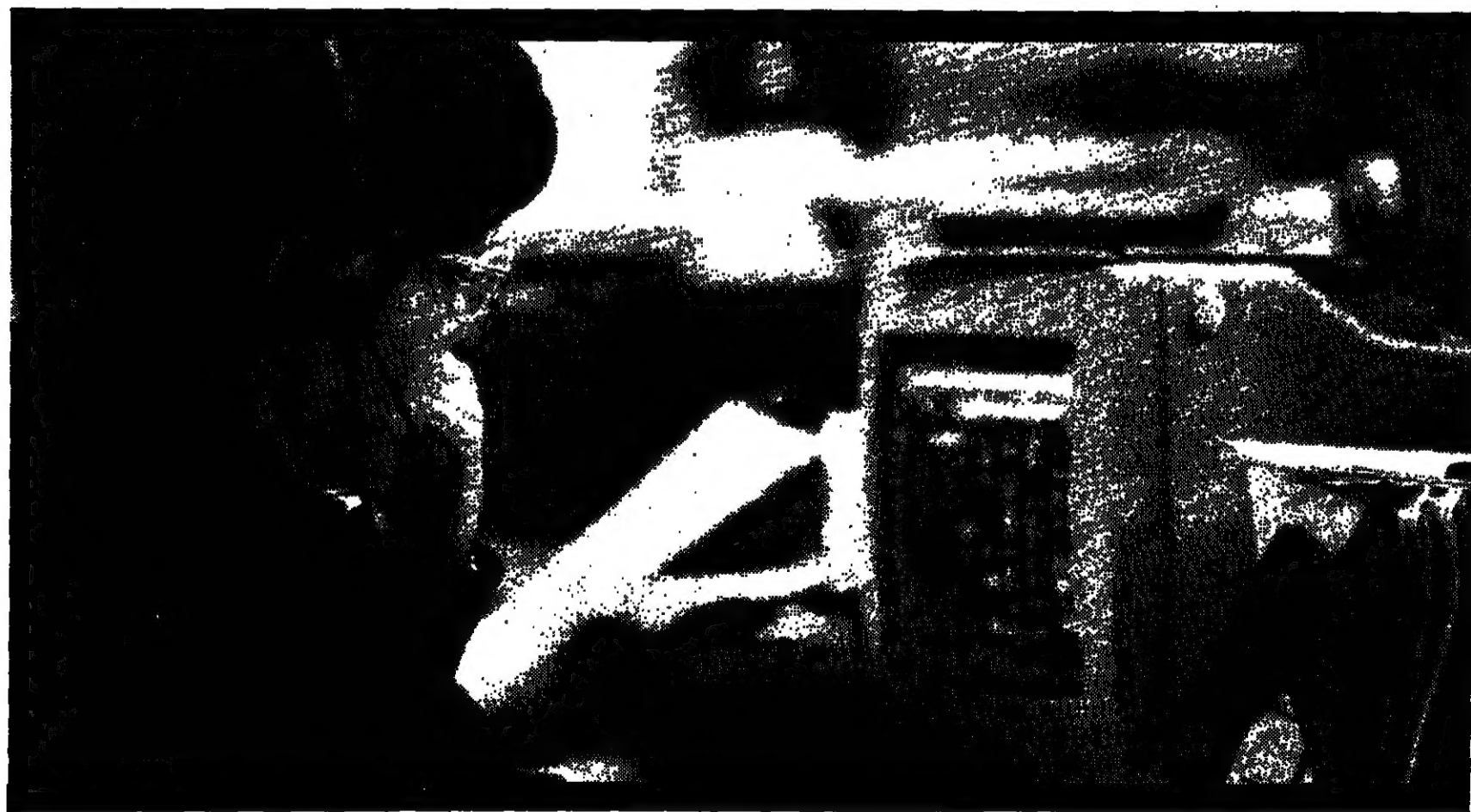
"At least something good is coming out of all this — I am having a new kitchen fitted."

Mr Broster added: "I hope no one else has to go through what I have had to endure at the hands of those doctors."

In a statement, the health authorities said they "did not consider the treatment given had fallen below a reasonable standard of care".
□ Barnet Healthcare NHS Trust, which administers Colindale Hospital, north London, has been censured by the ombudsman, William Reid, for not apologising to the family of an elderly patient with Parkinson's disease who was left unsupervised and died after a fall three years ago.

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Lamb stakes claim to seasonal value

BY ROBIN YOUNG

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Tesco: stewing steak £3.78 a kg, salmon steaks £2.95 a lb, black seeded grapes 69p a lb, Waitrose: sirloin steak £10.59 a kg, Jerusalem artichokes 75p per pack, Belgian chocolates £4.85 for 230g.

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Blow to privatisation proposal £142m of student loans 'unlikely to be recovered'

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

ONE in eight students with a government loan is unlikely ever to repay the debt, a report published today says. The figure is likely to be a further blow to government plans to privatise the loan scheme, announced in the Queen's Speech last week.

The Student Loans Company has told the National Audit Office that £142 million of outstanding debt is unlikely to be recovered. The loans company admitted recently that outstanding loans totalled more than £1 billion.

The report also highlights questions about the loans company's competence, and records the collapse of its telephone system. Out of 1.1 million attempted calls by students in November 1994 only 41,000 were answered.

Sir Eric Ash, head of the Student Loans Company, has already told ministers that the banks are unlikely to want to take over the scheme. The audit office report is likely to reinforce their reluctance.

The audit office, the public spending watchdog, found that almost half of all students who had received loans had

been granted a deferment on repayments because their income fell beneath the statutory threshold. Students are not required to repay a loan until a year after completing their course and then only if their income reaches 85 per cent of national average earnings.

The audit office found that of 269,000 students who should be repaying loans, 122,000 had been granted deferment. The loans company told the audit office that it recognised "it may be difficult to maintain contact with the large number of repayers in deferment".

The company admitted that £142 million, about 12 per cent of the outstanding loan portfolio of £1.178 billion, might not be recovered due to long-term deferment, death and default.

The audit office report says that the loans company's financial statements do not include any record of non-recoverable sums "because they are liable to remit to the Education Department only those monies they actually succeed in recovering". As a result of the audit office's

objections, the annual accounts will in future include provision for irrecoverable loan debt.

The report found that the loans company had improved its efficiency in the light of previous criticism and processed 517,000 applications for loans in the last academic year. However, 35,000 students experienced significant delay in getting grants.

The Commons Public Accounts Committee will question officials on the report next month, when the proposed privatisation is expected to come under attack as unrealistic.

Bryan Davies, Labour's education spokesman, said: "The report shows there is considerable uncertainty in detailed business planning for student loans. The Government has not answered why banks and building societies should want to handle such unpredictable loans, yet it is rushing privatisation through Parliament." The Student Loans Bill will be debated in Parliament on Monday.

Education, pages 38, 39

Teacher gagged children

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A TEACHER who gagged three primary school children with tape to keep them quiet has been sacked.

The supply teacher was on her second day at the 370-pupil Lonsome First School in Mitcham, south London, when she gagged the pupils as they were clearing up at the end of the school day.

A Merton Council spokesman said: "She warned the children in a lighthearted way that she would 'put tape over their mouths' if they were not quiet. She then put tape over the mouths of two girls, aged seven and eight, and a boy, age eight. She removed it

[from all three] on seeing the boy's surprised reaction."

Danny Thomas, the head teacher, removed the 23-year-old teacher from the school as soon as she found out about the incident on November 15. The spokesman added: "The children told their parents about it when they went home and the head teacher found out the next day."

The agency that supplied the teacher, HMS Education Personnel, has suspended her from its books. A spokesman said: "We were equally shocked and appalled by the incident. There was a clear breach of our written regula-

tions which clearly specify that under no circumstances are supply teachers permitted to have any physical contact with pupils. The teacher will no longer be employed by HMS."

Sheila Knight, chairman of Merton's education committee, said: "The supply teacher committed an unforgivable mistake... I apologise to the parents involved and assure all Merton parents that the council takes such incidents extremely seriously."

Merton council has asked the agency to check its vetting procedures.

Education, pages 38, 39



Pamela Matthews, Peniakoff's widow, and two survivors of his unit, Geoffrey Bays, left, and John Campbell

Popski's Private Army regroups to recall sabotage in the desert

By JOHN YOUNG

A DOZEN survivors of one of the most remarkable special forces units in the Second World War were reunited yesterday at the Imperial War Museum in London. Officially known as the No 1 Long-Range Demolition Squadron, the unit was immortalised as "Popski's Private Army" after a wartime cartoon character.

The squadron was created in October 1942 by Vladimir "Popski" Peniakoff, a Belgian of Russian parentage, who got to know the North African desert in Egypt before the war. Beginning with only 23 men, two trucks and four Jeeps, long-range raids were made behind the German lines in Tunisia.

Never numbering more than a hundred men, the unit attacked communications centres, supply stores and ammunition dumps. After the end of the North African campaign it transferred to Italy. By the end of the war it had penetrated the German heartland, meeting Red Army forces in Austria.

Peniakoff died in 1951 and the last reunion was in 1985.



"Popski" Peniakoff with Jeep and gunner. His unit's task was to knock out enemy strongpoints

The idea for yesterday's meeting came from Mark Seaman, of the museum, when he came across the papers of Major Jean Caneri, Peniakoff's second-in-command.

Among those present was Sergeant Bill O'Leary, 77, a former paratrooper who served in North Africa and Sicily and finally joined Popski's Private Army in Italy. His unit's main task was to take out strong points such as farmhouses. "We used to go behind the lines at night to

gather information," he recalled. "The main danger was minefields but all the land around Sienna and Ravenna was under water because the retreating Germans had blown the dikes."

Peniakoff had always opposed the assault on Monte Cassino, which cost the Allies heavily in time and casualties. Mr O'Leary said, Peniakoff had argued that there should be another landing further north.

Major John Campbell, 74,

who won the MC and Bar, said yesterday that he had been medically downgraded after being wounded with the Eighth Army in North Africa. Impatient to get back to the front but fed up with the infantry, he was finally

grudgingly accepted by Peniakoff after being detailed to take part in a 64-mile route march across the mountains and finishing first.

Ben Owen, 78, also joined Peniakoff in Italy, as a patrol NCO working with explosives. After the war he became an assistant to Michael Burn, who had been imprisoned in Colditz and was then Vienna correspondent of *The Times*.

Pamela Matthews, Peniakoff's widow, said yesterday that she had met him in Vienna while working for the Allied Commission on Displaced Persons. "None of us had heard very much about him. But we all became terrific friends."

"He was very solid both physically and morally; you only had to look at him to see that. He never made snap decisions, and everything was very thorough. One just felt absolute confidence in him."

'Excellent progress' by Queen Mother

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is continuing to make "excellent progress" after her hip replacement operation a week ago, Buckingham Palace said. No further bulletin on her condition is planned. When she entered the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, London, she was expected to stay for a fortnight.

After a visit on Wednesday with the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, the Princess Royal joked: "She is looking forward to a hard winter, so she can go skating in Sandringham."

Sent for trial

Two men accused of murdering Daniel Handley, 9, of Beckton, east London, were committed to stand trial at the Old Bailey, Brent Tyler, 30, and Timothy Morris, 32, were remained in custody by Stratford magistrates, London.

Lawyer barred

A solicitor alleged to be responsible for clients' losses of £3.3 million was struck off by the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal in London. Noel Horner, 52, of Truro, Cornwall, had admitted failing to produce books for inspection.

Parole murder

A convicted killer who stabbed to death a man while on parole was jailed for life at the Old Bailey. Ian Baker, 36, of New Cross, southeast London, was found guilty of murdering Michael Davis, 27, in an unprovoked attack in a pub.

£30,000 libel win

Joe Homan, 65, ex-head of the Peterborough-based International Boys Town Trust, which has children's homes in India, won £30,000 libel damages from Associated Newspapers over claims he had sexually abused boys in his care.

Lottery garden

The National Trust has been given nearly £5 million of lottery funds to buy and restore Croome Park, designed by Lancelot "Capability" Brown. The trust is to plant 1,400 trees at the park near Worcester.

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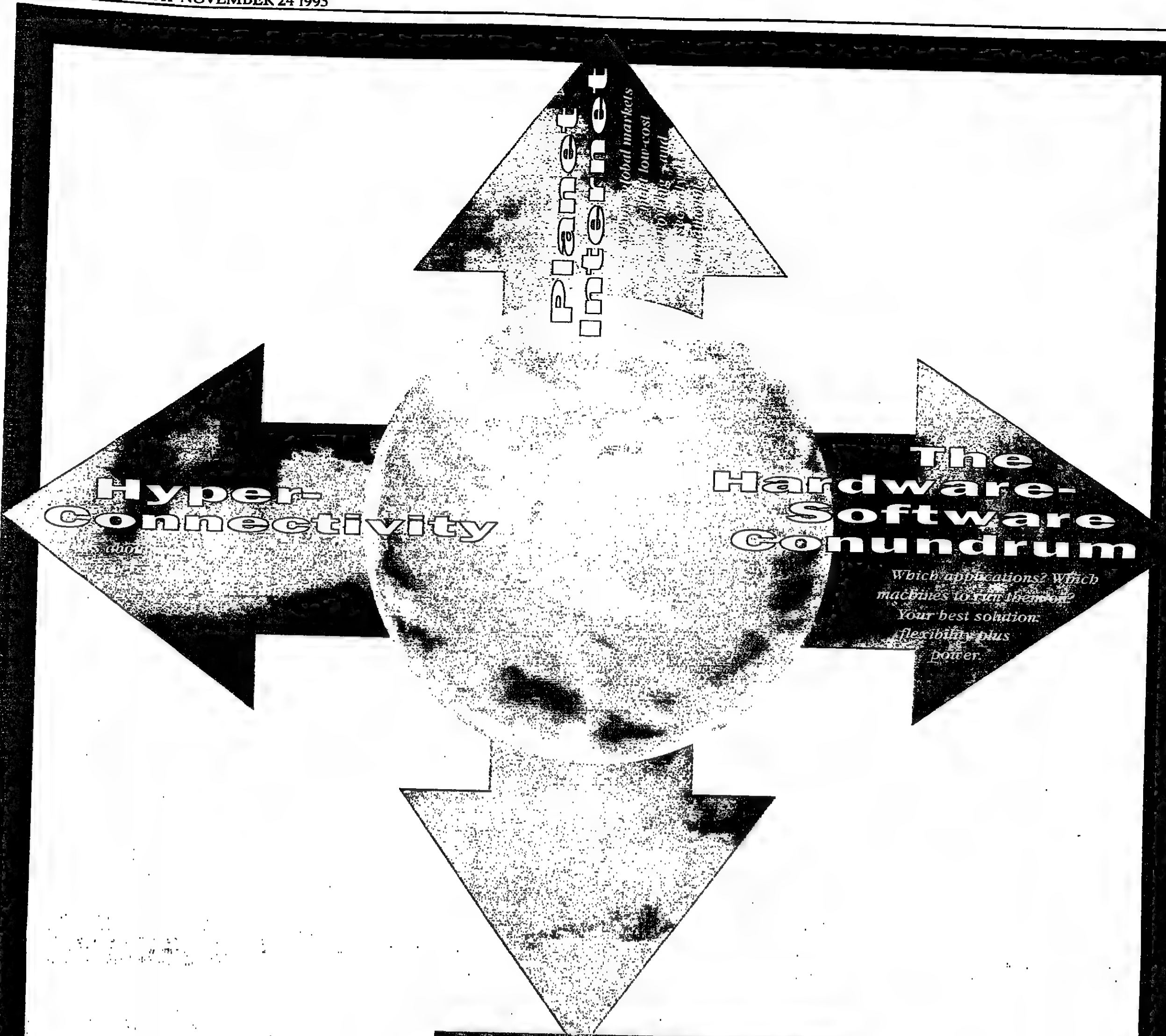
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Brown forced to tread carefully after policy row

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

GORDON BROWN is to consult more widely on policy decisions after a damaging row over his failure to tell Shadow Cabinet colleagues about plans to dock benefits from workshy young people.

Some shadow ministers were incensed by his decision to use a newspaper interview last week to disclose the proposed scheme, which would penalise those who turned down the chance of a job or training. It is understood that only David Blunkett, responsible for education and employment, and possibly Chris Smith, social security, were informed at the time.

The Shadow Chancellor has since clarified the scheme in an attempt to reassure his colleagues that it is not as draconian as they believed. His method of announcing it fuelled a row that had been simmering over several months about his wide-ranging brief and tendency to make policy on the hoof.

Some of his colleagues, including Robin Cook, criticised Mr Brown to his face at a Shadow Cabinet meeting last week and details of the confrontation were leaked to a Sunday newspaper. The leak prompted Tony Blair to read the riot act to the Shadow

Cabinet on Wednesday and give his "101 per cent" backing to Mr Brown. Mr Blair was said to be furious about the attempt to undermine his closest ally by disclosing private discussions to the press.

Several shadow ministers are concerned about Mr Brown's wider role as chairman of a strategy committee that meets daily to decide how the party should react to political events and stories in the media. Yesterday leadership sources made clear that policy spokesmen and others would be consulted on important decisions at an earlier stage.

Gordon is in charge of a committee which meets daily to discuss news management and that sometimes means decisions are taken to promote one idea or another to respond to events as they happen, "one source said. That is a special responsibility and that sometimes means ranging into other people's territory."

"Some of them feel on the detail of the Budget strategy that they were not consulted properly. To that extent there will hopefully be much closer co-operation right across the board when things are being planned."

Mr Brown used Wednesday's meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party to

reassure MPs about his plans to withdraw 40 per cent of benefit from workshy young people. He emphasised that those who had been unemployed for six months would have four weeks to look for a job or a place on a voluntary scheme. Labour's environmental task force or a training scheme before they lost benefit. They would be able to refuse any of the four within the four-week period, but not all four. If they did they would then lose benefit.

Last night Mr Brown's allies dismissed any rumblings from Shadow Cabinet members as a result of long standing jealousies. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, has been at Westminster nine years longer than Mr Brown and is known to have resented his rapid rise to the top of the party. He is also said to be disgruntled that he did not receive enough support from party colleagues to be considered a possible contender for the Labour leadership.

John Prescott, the party's deputy leader, is thought to resent the way in which Mr Brown behaves as Mr Blair's second-in-command.

Public confidence in Tory economic policy falls to new low

Clarke's strategy fails to impress

By Peter Riddell

FEWER people believe that government policies will in the long term improve the state of the economy than at any time since the Tories came to office in 1979, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll underlines continued scepticism about the Government's economic strategy as well as about the strength of the recovery. It also underlines how much Kenneth Clarke has to do in the Budget on Tuesday.

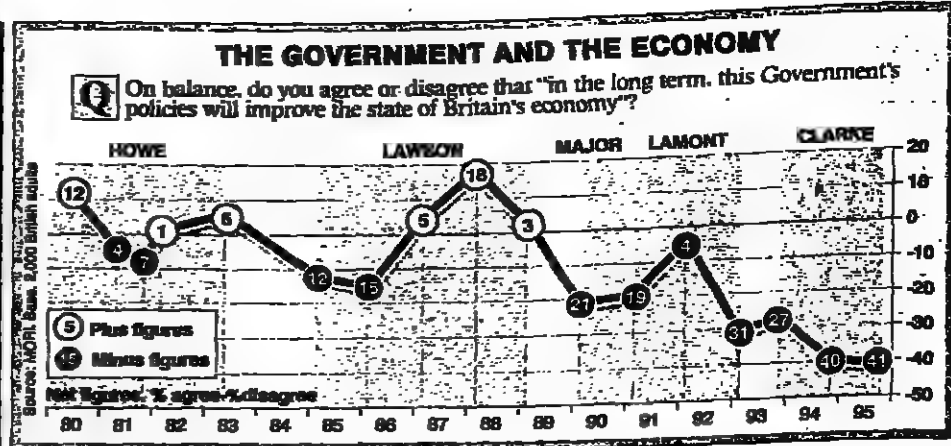
The net balance of those agreeing that this Government's policies will improve the state of the economy, less those disagreeing, is now minus 41 points, one point higher than in mid-December 1994 after the last Budget.

The net balance was just minus 4 points in March 1992 after Norman Lamont's pre-election Budget and as the campaign started. A year earlier it had been minus 19 points. In March 1987, after the pre-election Budget of Nigel Lawson, the level was plus five points.

Satisfaction with the way Mr Clarke is doing his job has improved since the immediate aftermath of his Budget a year ago, but is still lower than for any other Chancellor apart



Kenneth Clarke, who must convince a more sceptical public than faced by any other Chancellor in 15 years



Major strengthens loyalist support

JOHN MAJOR and the Government have succeeded recently in strengthening their support among Tory loyalists, even though their ratings remain low among the public as a whole and Labour retains a 30-point lead (Peter Riddell writes).

The MORI poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that while Mr Major's personal rating has fallen back to its level before he was re-elected Tory leader in July, satisfaction with his performance among Tory supporters has doubled since the spring. The net balance, measuring those satisfied less dissatisfied, now stands at plus 27 points compared with plus 14 points in May. By contrast, his net approval rating with the pub-

lic has improved by only eight points to minus 41 points over the past six months.

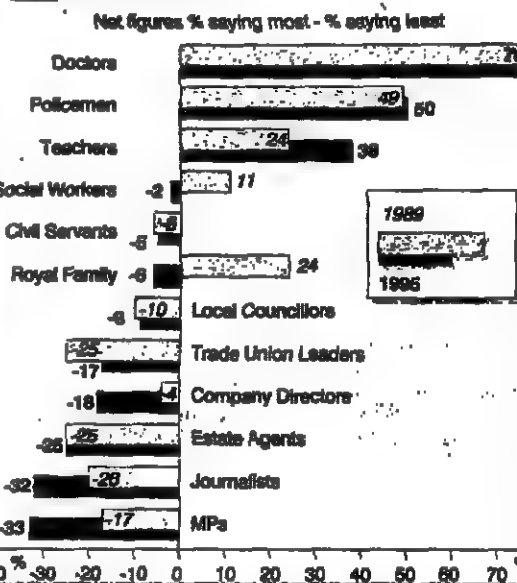
Satisfaction with the way the Government is running the country is now higher among Tory supporters than in the spring. Its net rating has improved by 22 points to minus nine points. The shift in overall public satisfaction with the Government has narrowed by only 10 points to minus 62 points. This contrast between the attitudes of the public and of Tory loyalists may reflect the leadership's campaign to sharpen divisions between the parties on issues such as taxes, Europe and immigration.

Paddy Ashdown's approval ratings remain strongly favourable.

RESPECT FOR THE PROFESSIONS

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Q And which of the two or three do you have least respect for?



MPs must start to show their worth

MPs are now less respected than either journalists or estate agents, according to the latest MORI poll. It shows that respect for politicians has fallen further even than for journalists since 1989. This is hardly surprising in view of all the furore of the past year over the Nolan inquiry, but both the causes and implications are much broader than allegations merely about sleaze and scandal. The new edition of the annual British Social Attitudes survey, based on more than 3,500 interviews, highlights the extent of the decline in trust and confidence in political institutions, and suggests that this has not necessarily damaged the workings of democracy.

Among the key findings are a further rise during the 1990s in the already high percentages of those who believe that the system of governing Britain could be improved quite a lot or a great deal and of those who believe that governments put the needs of the nation above the needs of party only some of the time or almost never. While the level of political trust is higher among Tory than Labour supporters, the recent decline has been as great among the former as the latter.

The public is increasingly sceptical about what MPs do on their behalf. A growing number believe MPs are interested only in votes, not their opinions. The proportion claiming they have no say in what the government does has doubled to 38 per cent since the mid-1970s.

These trends have not, however, produced the expected threats to the health of British democracy. The survey suggests that "Britain's changing political culture has not yet, at any rate, brought about any consistent increase in apathy, alienation or intolerance." People with a low level of trust in the political system are not reluctant to take action such as signing a petition or going on a protest: indeed, they are more likely to do so than those who trust the system. They are no less likely than the average

HIDDELL ON POLITICS

to vote or be interested in politics, though they are less likely to contact their MP. The decline in political trust has reinforced support for constitutional reform. The authors conclude that "far from undermining the health of British democracy, a less trusting and more vigilant public might already be helping to bring about an improvement in Britain's democratic condition."

It would be a mistake for the opposition parties to be complacent, and to assume that they are in tune with the public's sceptical mood merely because they favour constitutional reform. My own conclusion is that MPs need to show not only that they are above board in their personal dealings (as most are), but also that they are more effective in monitoring the executive and legislation. Moreover, as Douglas Hurd said a week ago, "political success may well go to those who sound least like politicians". Politicians appear not only to be out of touch but also to be putting their party interests first.

British Social Attitudes: the 13th report, published by Dartmouth Publishing Company on behalf of Social and Community Planning Research, price £25.00.

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Mubarak jails 54 in clampdown on Muslim moderates

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

EGYPT, intensifying its fight against an Islamic takeover, yesterday jailed 54 members of the previously tolerated Muslim Brotherhood and shut its Cairo headquarters.

The move against the mainly middle-class organisation came less than a week before elections to the 488-member National Assembly. It was criticised by Islamic supporters as a blatant attempt to prevent it demonstrating popular support. Amnesty International condemned the authorities for holding the trials before a military court.

The clampdown was the toughest imposed on the Brotherhood, which claims tens of thousands of supporters among Egypt's professional classes, since 1966 when President Nasser accused it of plotting a coup. On that occasion three members were executed and 200 imprisoned. Nabil Osman, chief of the State Information Office, defended the measures, pointing out that the Brotherhood was illegal and alleging that it had the same intentions as groups such as Islamic Jihad (Holy War) and al-Gamaa al-Islamiya (The Islamic Group), which both claimed responsibility for the bomb attack against the Egyptian Embassy

Moderates in Algeria's illegal Islamic opposition yesterday rejected calls by hardliners for last week's presidential poll to be ignored and for President Zeroual to be overthrown (Mark Hubbard writes). The exiled leader of the Islamic Salvation Front in Europe, Rabah Kebir, issued a letter recognising the poll's legitimacy and the failure of a boycott call.

in Islamabad.

Until January, President Mubarak had unofficially tolerated the Brotherhood and even allowed its members to stand for parliament under the wing of other opposition parties. In theory, the group had renounced violence in its support for an Islamic state.

According to Western security sources, the change of heart came when Mr Mubarak received intelligence that members of the Brotherhood were co-operating secretly with the militants responsible for the lethal campaign against foreign tourists. As a result of yesterday's sentences, the bulk of which involved prison with hard labour, the three-year Islamic

terrorist campaign which has cost more than 850 lives is expected to intensify.

The military court, meeting in a heavily guarded army camp outside Cairo, sentenced five of the 51 to five years' hard labour, 40 to three years' hard labour and nine to three years of normal imprisonment. It acquitted 27. Those convicted included doctors, academics and community leaders accused of offences such as organising an illegal group, holding illegal secret meetings and preparing anti-government leaflets. When the sentences were delivered, they responded with an orderly chant of Islamic slogans.

Mohamed Khairat, a computer specialist sentenced to five years' hard labour, claimed that prison would not change the men. "Islam is the only solution, the only hope against the corruption and injustice of Mubarak."

Western diplomats were mixed in their reaction, although one said: "A step like this only brings Egypt closer to the nightmare that is Algeria."

Islamabad: Ten people have been arrested in Pakistan over the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy that killed 16 people last Sunday. (Reuters)



Mandela meets prosecutor for first time in 31 years

President Mandela yesterday with Percy Yutar, who led the prosecution 31 years ago that sent him to jail for 27 years for plotting sabotage against white minority rule in South Africa. The Pretoria meeting underlined the President's commitment to reconciliation (Inigo Gilmore writes).

The last time Mr Mandela met the anti-apartheid hate figure was now in a Pretoria courtroom where Mr Yutar argued the State's case in the

1964 Rivonia trial against Mr Mandela. Towering above the wizened lawyer, the President placed his arm around the slender shoulders of his one-time adversary and offered his atonement, saying what happened was now in the past. Mr Yutar, 84, describing the President as a "saintly man", denied claims that he had pressed for Mr Mandela to receive the death sentence and, for the first time, revealed that in July 1983 he pleaded with the Cabinet for the release of the Rivonia defendants. He said that while each minister was in favour, they telephoned him one day to say his wish could

not be granted. In a separate development, a bank which had threatened to seize Winnie Mandela's Soweto mansion last night dropped its court action over default on mortgage repayments.

Her lawyer said the dispute had been resolved during talks with the bank but no mention was made of a third-party settlement. Reports at the weekend said Mr Mandela was preparing to settle the account for his estranged wife.

Sri Lankan troops trap guerrillas in Jaffna

FROM REUTERS IN COLOMBO

THE Sri Lankan army cut off the rebel bastion of Jaffna yesterday, leaving no way for 2,000 Tamil Tiger guerrillas to escape from the town and boosting morale after the government forces had lost another plane. A military spokesman said the rebels "have to jump into the sea, bite cyanide or surrender."

In an appeal for calm, President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, fearing violence against minority Tamils, said her troops were fighting "ruthless terrorists" and not the island's minorities. "I request all citizens to celebrate victory calmly and peacefully," she said on state radio. "The war is not against Tamil civilians... Do not in any way harass the Tamil community by word or deed."

Earlier, defence officials said the army advance on Jaffna, in the island's far north, had been slowed but not stopped by the crash on Wednesday of a Russian-built AN32 transport plane, carrying troops, in which all 63 on board were killed. The air force has lost six planes in seven months, two of them in the past week.

The Tigers, who have claimed responsibility for bringing down military planes in the past, have not issued any statement about the latest crash.

NEWS BRIEF

Nigerian junta hits at critics

Abuja: Nigeria's military ruler expressed outrage at the two-year deadline set by the Commonwealth for returning the country to civilian rule. General Sani Abacha said: "It is an insult for our nation to be told to review our transition programme."

His two-year-old Government is the target of international isolation after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists. A 33-member task force of traditional rulers is advising the regime on responses to critics, but its credibility was dented with the appointment of Lieutenant-General Jeremiah Useni, a ruling council member, as leader. (AP)

Canada gun law

Toronto: Canada has passed a gun control law requiring registration of all the country's seven million firearms. Jean Chrétien, the Prime Minister, said many Americans would be envious. (AP)

Anti-polio drive

Delhi: India is to attempt to immunise 75 million children under three against polio. Half a million immunisation centres will be open on December 9 and January 20 for parents to bring children. (AP)

Tanzania leader

Dar es Salaam: Benjamin William Mkapa, 57, was sworn in as Tanzania's third President since independence in 1961. Mr Mkapa won 61.8 per cent of the vote in recent elections. (Reuters)

Bow and scrap

Nairobi: Two Kenyan MPs punched each other in parliament, bowed to the chair, and left to continue exchanging blows in a corridor. It was the first fight in the chamber in nearly ten years. (Reuters)

Arrest of dissident defended by China

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINA yesterday rejected attacks by international human rights organisations on the formal arrest and likely trial of Wei Jingsheng, a leading dissident, and denied that a fair trial was not possible because the Government had already branded him a criminal.

Shen Guofang, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said: "I don't think the arrest and trial conducted by the Chinese judiciary has violated any international standards." On the contrary, it was people and organisations who tried to interfere in China's judicial procedures who violated international standards, he added.

The new move against Mr Wei came a day after President Jiang Zemin returned from the summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum in Osaka, where he had held successful talks with US Vice-President Al Gore. It seemed to indicate, in the eyes of foreign envoys in Peking, China's continuing propensity to shoot itself in the foot.

"President Jiang is accepted as a statesman in the diplomatic councils of the world, then his all-powerful Government moves against a single man after locking him away for 18 months in clear violation of his human rights," said one envoy. "It makes you wonder what they are afraid of."

His words echoed those of an exiled relative of Mr Wei, who had said the day before: "Such a big country, such a big party, and yet they cannot tolerate one or two words of criticism. They are too fragile." Human Rights in China, a group of exiled dissidents in New York, described the charge against Mr Wei, 44, accused of attempting to overthrow the Government, as absurd, transparently political and a "flagrant violation of international human rights standards."

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Ex-minister to face judge over Spain's anti-terrorist war

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE Spanish Congress voted in secret yesterday to lift the parliamentary immunity of José Barriónuevo, a former Interior Minister, so that he can be questioned by a judge in the Supreme Court. The vote in the 350-seat House, where the minority Socialist Government has 159 deputies, was 204 in favour and 122 against, with ten abstentions.

Judge Eduardo Moner is examining the extent of Madrid's involvement in the formation of death squads that killed 27 terrorist suspects in southwestern France a decade ago. Señor Barriónuevo was Interior Minister from 1982 to 1988 when the anti-terrorist liberation groups (Gal) were active.

Former senior officials in the Interior Ministry, all on bail, have confessed to a judge that they were involved in using secret funds to finance and organise Gal. During his investigation, Judge Baltasar Garçon obtained evidence that directly implicated the Government, in power since 1982, in forming Gal.

Felipe González, the Prime Minister, Señor Barriónuevo, Narcis Serra, a former Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, and José María Benegas, a Socialist Party



Barriónuevo denies the death squad allegations

official, were all named. Only the Supreme Court can ask for parliamentary immunity to be lifted so that deputies can be questioned, with the case allocated to Judge Moner.

"The 122 votes against the lifting of immunity were a clear indication of the collective political responsibility of PSOE [the Socialist Party] and the Government in the war against Eta," said Francisco Álvarez-Cascos, the Secretary-General of the Popular Party, the Centre-Right opposition that is widely expected to win the next general election called for next March. Señor González said after the secret session:

"It was a vote of conscience and can be explained as such." He will announce next month if he is to stand in the election.

Señor Barriónuevo has denied any involvement with Gal and initially said that he would speak to the Supreme Court judge in order to clear his name. However, with the prospect of prison sentences for those found guilty of allowing the illegal operation, he has recently changed his tune. The key questions now are whether he approved Gal and if he will implicate others, including the Prime Minister.

This week Colonel Juan Albert Perote, a former secret service agent, in custody on charges of stealing secret documents, told Judge Moner that Cesid, the Spanish intelligence service, helped Gal.

The Senate has also formed a parliamentary committee to investigate the Gal scandal, which is just one of many cases of alleged corruption that besiege the Government. Most Spanish public opinion did not oppose a "dirty war" against Basque separatists. However, a majority of Spaniards object to the way the officials organising the campaign enriched themselves from the funds intended for their operations.



Italian pupils, with a banner reading "Hands off state schools", demonstrate in front of the Colosseum yesterday. The Rome protest was staged against an increase in funds given to the private educational system, which was announced in the Government's 1996 budget

France steels itself for strikers' day of chaos

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S 24-hour general strike today will not make headlines for the simple reason that print unions have voted to strike, along with transport workers, hospital staff, students, miners, local government and bank employees, and many others.

Today's stoppage, called by the seven powerful civil service unions in

opposition to far-reaching welfare reforms, will be even more widely observed than the strike on October 10 which brought France to a near standstill, unions predicted yesterday.

The large Force Ouvrière union has called for another stoppage next Tuesday, and other unions have said they plan to join that strike if today's demonstration is successful.

Striking rail unions gave a warning that commuter trains and suburban

lines round Paris might be halted entirely, while most high-speed TGV services were also due to be cancelled as of last night. Several unions called for the rail strike to continue through the weekend. The Paris Metro will run at a fraction of capacity, but the Eurostar Channel Tunnel service will be less affected, with ten of the 12 trains from London running to schedule.

More than 80 per cent of Air France's European flights will be halted and a

strike by air traffic controllers will disrupt air travel within France.

Despite the havoc, a poll published in *Le Parisien* yesterday showed that some 54 per cent of people support the general strike, compared with 23 per cent against. Numerous rallies are taking place today. Last week Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, said that, if two million people took to the streets against his reforms, the Government would fall.

Ear, ear, what's all this then?

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

BURGLARS in The Netherlands are falling foul of a new form of forensic evidence — the ear-print. Pioneered by Rotterdam police, the technique has led to a dozen convictions so far this year, a police spokesman said yesterday.

"It is as unique as a fingerprint and is ideal for catching burglars because they often listen before breaking in. Their ear-prints are most common on windows and doors. Sometimes there is a print of an ear-ring, skin wrinkles and strands of hair as well. That's a bonus," said Nico Dubois, a police expert who developed the practice.

Mr Dubois and a colleague, Frans de Groen, researched similarities in the ears of people from the same family or race before concluding no oral organ is the same.

If burglars start to wear muffs, Mr Dubois said, "there are many more body parts that are unique and we will be looking how to use these in the near future".

Rome fears new Tyrol militancy

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

PRESIDENT SCALFARO of Italy is flying to the German-speaking Alto Adige-Trentino region today to appeal for national unity amid signs of a revival in South Tyrol separatist guerrilla activity, official sources say.

His visit to the northern city of Trento comes after alarm in Rome at efforts by regional officials from pro-autonomy parties to use European Union funds to create a new region-state that would straddle the frontiers of Italy and Austria and satisfy nostalgia for a "Greater Tyrol", harking back to the days of the pre-1918 Austro-Hungarian Empire. Austrian intelligence agents have discovered that armed groups of *Schützen* — colourful folkloric activists calling for Tyrolean cultural and political unity — attended paramilitary training camps for weapons courses earlier this year, the Rome daily *Il Messaggero* reported.

Thousands of young German speakers from the Alto Adige and Trentino gathered at a rally in Innsbruck on September 17 and declared the formation of a *Schützenbund*, uniting Tyrolean militants.

Freudian detects crime queen's sins

BY BEN MACINTYRE

BENEATH the polite manners of Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple lurk dark passions, suppressed sadism and Oedipal longings, according to a French psychoanalyst who has put Agatha Christie on the couch and uncovered a wealth of Freudian hang-ups.

The celebrated novelist left behind numerous clues to her psychology by the time of her death in 1976, which have now



Agatha Christie: sadism and Oedipal longings?

been pieced together in a book entitled *Meurtre Familier* (Familial Murder) by Sophie de Mijolla-Mellor.

A professor of clinical psychology and psychoanalysis at the University of Paris, Mme de Mijolla-Mellor argues that the singular nature of Christie's works can be explained by her frustrated childhood, a lack of adult understanding in her youth

and repressed Oedipal remorse. Christie's 77 novels, of which two billion copies have been published in 45 languages, reveal undercurrents of repressed sexuality amid the scenes and gentility.

The writer attaches great importance to Christie's childhood fantasies about murder, and in particular the "gunman", a horrifying "killer" who appeared in Christie's early nightmares complete with a telltale Freudian slump where his hand should be.

Mme de Mijolla-Mellor argues that Poirot and Miss Marple are reflections of Christie's need to exorcise this archetype of evil. The book has received enthusiastic reviews in France. "Behind the well-groomed exteriors of provincial England, in the ancient houses haunted by nostalgia for the womb, sexual urges simmer. Sadism and castration are commonplace," wrote Jean-François Held in the magazine *L'Événement du Jeudi*.

Was Christie a tortured soul whose complex psychology spilled into her work, or merely a great writer who knew how to rattle her readers? The case remains open, but it is worth recalling Freud's own words: "Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar." *Meurtre familial: Approche psychanalytique d'Agatha Christie* by Sophie de Mijolla-Mellor. Dunod, 206pp. Fr140

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Poll deals blow to image of Britons as Euro-sceptics

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

A NARROW majority of Britons believe that the United Kingdom should hand over more power to the European Union, according to a European-wide survey which shows that the British Euro-sceptics are not as negative as often thought.

Polls conducted for the European Commission in the 15 member states found that 51 per cent of Britons believe that their country should "share more sovereignty with the other member states". Only in four EU countries — Greece, Denmark, Sweden and Finland — did majorities oppose giving up more national powers.

The Commission, which is waging a campaign to improve the EU's image, staged the polls to gauge attitudes towards the imminent revamp of the Maastricht treaty. It found that only 16 per cent of Britons were even aware that such an exercise was in the offing — the lowest level in Europe. Britons were, however, the most convinced of the importance of reforming EU institutions.

By other measures, however, British attitudes to Europe are widely shared among the other 14 members and rarely are they extreme. The Nordic

countries and Greece emerge as more generally Euro-sceptic and substantial minorities in most countries hold the Union in low esteem.

Only 7 per cent of Europeans favour the creation of a federal superstate. Finns are even more opposed to monetary union than the 53 per cent opposed to it in Britain. A narrow majority of Europeans believe a single currency will be in operation by the end of

Howard 'no' on Europol

Britain's European Union partners failed yesterday to persuade it to drop its opposition to a role for the European Court in the activities of Europol, the police agency set up to tackle cross-border crime (Charles Bremner writes).

However, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, approved an all-European definition of "refugee". The new criteria, though not binding on member states, rule out asylum for most of those fleeing civil war, a step that could close the gates to Balkan refugees.

the century. "Euro" is by far the most popular name for the new unit.

The Commission will be disheartened to find that a strong majority favours a looser, *à la carte* Union in which countries can opt out of common policies, as Britain does over monetary union and the Social Chapter. This finding bodes ill for attempts to enforce a single-speed Europe at the inter-governmental conference (IGC) in 1996.

More citizens also believe member states should retain their veto rights than those who back the more federalist view. In another surprise, while 47 per cent of Britons back the Government's refusal to give up the national veto in EU affairs, they only narrowly outnumber the 44 per cent who believe the veto right should be dropped. Nearly 70 per cent of Europeans believe, however, that the Union should have a common foreign and defence policy.

Equally noteworthy was the shaky public support for opening of the Union to new members from Eastern and Central Europe. National governments will also heed that seven out of ten Europeans believe the IGC results should be put to a referendum.



Shipyard workers from Severodvinsk, in northern Russia, wave a "Red Fleet" flag at a Moscow rally yesterday demanding jobs

Chernomyrdin offers cash sweeteners to lure reluctant voters

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S long-suffering population could be forgiven for believing that Christmas is coming early this year, after millions of pounds in "sweeteners" have been promised to disaffected voters ahead of polling day.

After years of complaints that the Kremlin has done little for the ordinary man, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the dour Prime Minister, is recasting himself in the role of Father Christmas with a little something for everyone. Although better known as the man who brought Russia's economy under control through tough belt-tightening measures, Mr Chernomyrdin is today orchestrating the biggest state handout since the Communists were in power.

Millions of Russians, including unpaid soldiers, disgruntled journalists and swindled investors have been promised a generous financial assistance package. The unwritten clause in the offer is that voters put aside their anti-government sentiments and back Mr Chernomyrdin's Our Home Is Russia party, which is trailing in the polls with less than a month before elections. "Nobody has promised Russia more in the last five years than Viktor Chernomyrdin has in the last week," commented the current affairs programme *Itogi*, which listed the lucky recipients.

The first to benefit from the Government's largesse will be the neglected military, whose soldiers complain that they are never paid on time. Mr Chernomyrdin has promised that all arrears will be met by the end of this month and that cash shortages for the army will soon be a thing of the past.

The move appears to have impressed some men in uniform. General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, caused a furore among opposition parties last week when he publicly endorsed Mr Chernomyrdin and instructed the country's 15 million troops to vote for his party.

The next in line was the Russian press, where many newspapers and magazines have recently been threatened with closure because of dwindling readership and high publishing costs. Here, too, the journalists were reassured that state assistance would be made available.

By far Mr Chernomyrdin's most important pledge was to the estimated 20 million Russians, many of them pensioners, who lost their savings in crooked investment companies over the past four years, in particular the notorious MMM pyramid scheme which crashed last summer. In a move which has been widely denounced as cynical ploy, the Prime Minister has promised to establish a fund to protect shareholders and compensate investors, who lost millions in fraudulent schemes.

Experts predicted that, although the tactics might not be subtle, among Russia's inexperienced voters the promises could play an important role in swaying the large undecided electorate, particularly the victims of fraud.

Nevertheless, the pre-election gimmick could also backfire. "I was going to vote for Chernomyrdin until I found out that he was planning to give away my taxes," Nikolai Ivanchev said. "He will not get my vote now."

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West accused of trying to raise Slovak tensions

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A CLOSE political associate of Vladimir Meciar, the Slovak Prime Minister, yesterday accused the West of fomenting tension in Slovakia by its accusations of misgovernment and political manipulation.

Ivan Gasparovic, the chairman of the parliament, said many Slovaks doubted whether their country was really wanted in Nato and the European Union after the tough warnings delivered to Mr Meciar by European Union foreign ministers last month. He said that these warnings, echoed by the United States, were "creating dangerous, inner-political nervousness and tension".

His defiant remarks come in the wake of a public warning from Hans van den Broek, the EU Commissioner responsible for ties with Eastern Europe, that the recent record of violations of political and human rights in Slovakia had jeopardised the country's early entry into the Union. He said member states would not tolerate political abuses that included harassment of the opposition and alleged political corruption.

It has emerged that Britain has withdrawn a privatisation adviser in protest at what is seen as the political manipulation of the privatisation programme to reward supporters of Mr Meciar's Government. David Douglas, the adviser, one of two originally sent to Bratislava, was recalled in June when Slovak plans for mass privatisation using coupons were withdrawn.

Mr Gasparovic yesterday also criticised a resolution by the European Parliament de-

ploring recent political trends in Slovakia. A member of Mr Meciar's ruling Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, he told a visiting delegation from Strasbourg that Slovakia now doubted the West's sincerity in promising to open negotiations on EU entry.

British officials make no secret of their dismay at what are seen as high-handed authoritarian tactics by Mr Meciar to quash political opposition. His campaign to force the resignation of President Kovac has included government pressure on all civil servants to sign petitions calling for his removal.

The Government has also blocked an inquiry into the security services which are accused of kidnapping Mr



Kovac: facing calls for his resignation

Kovac's son earlier this year, dragging him and dumping him across the border in Austria with a tip-off to police in Germany, where he is wanted for questioning over drugs and financial irregularities.

'Adam' lived 180,000 years ago in Africa

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ALL men have a single ancestor who lived less than 200,000 years ago, according to an American scientific report. The early man, nicknamed "Adam", belonged to a small tribe, possibly from Africa.

Geneticists studied the genes in a mixed-race group of men, noting differences in the male-only Y-chromosome. The Y-chromosome, which is passed from father to son, is one of the two sex-determining chromosomes.

In a report in the latest issue of *Nature* magazine, Dr Michael Hammer of the University of Arizona estimates that "Adam" lived 188,000 years ago. He was not the loner depicted in Genesis, but more likely a member of a small group of primitive

people. His genes happened to survive while those of his colleagues did not, probably because they failed to procreate.

Dr Hammer's report matches the "Eve" ancestral theory for women, which was reached after a worldwide survey of DNA sequences in the 1980s. It concluded that all female groups, from Europe to Australia, could trace their ancestry back to a single woman who lived in Africa some 200,000 years ago. This opposed a theory that mankind evolved in different regions of the Old World from an earlier ancestor, *Homo erectus*, who migrated from Africa a million years ago. A separate report in the same issue of *Nature* offers a more recent dating for "Adam".

There is nothing to suggest that "Adam" knew "Eve", said Dr Hammer, although research suggested that he was of African origin.

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Few heroes emerge in war played out as 'dirty game'

A Serb sniper's bullets puffed into the snow and ice was my introduction to the Bosnian war. Two old women pushed their cart on, unconcerned, as I dived for cover.

It was March 1993 and my third day in Sarajevo. I ran to the cover of a nearby wall from where I saw the old women's perilous journey. A bullet blew a wheel from the cart, while others tore into the potatoes, showering the women with debris. Miraculously, they made it to the wall. I expected them to be shocked, or at least outraged, that someone should have consciously tried to kill them.

Yet they expressed not even surprise. "Huh, that was close," one remarked as the other sighed and knelt down to repair the shattered wheel. For them, it was just another day in Sarajevo. For me, it was an introduction to the rules of Bosnia's war in which the very young, the very old, man, woman and child alike were as likely to be deliberately shot at as the soldier on the front line.

The Bosnian war started as a fairly parochial conflict between Serbs, Muslims and Croats in the spring of 1992, yet as it progressed assumed an importance disproportionate to the state's size, and soon the United Nations and Nato were involved. For all the international involvement, the Bosnian war was most memorable for its brutality.

Perhaps many foreign observers were naive as to the nature of warfare. With experience of the Falkland and Gulf wars, fought between



Anthony Loyd, who has spent three years in Bosnia, looks back at a war fed by a cycle of suffering and bitterness

armies in environments largely bare of civilians, perhaps we were ignorant of the fact that most wars are fought in populated areas far from the cameras where rape and the murder of civilians are common.

Yet Bosnia's war involved a particularly shocking brand of hatred and callousness. Much of its ugliness was born, ironically, from the fact that the participants knew each

'The crying prisoner, whom I had pitied, had doubtless sliced the ear from a Muslim woman'

other, at least by reputation. They had shared the same land and now fought one another for this ground. As each side suffered, so the level of bitterness towards former friends grew in a vicious circle.

In nearly three years of covering the war I was to see just a little of this ugliness: women with their faces blown off, men pitchforked, children with their heads smashed in by rifle butts, soldiers garrotted, village communities slaughtered and their

houses burnt down. Even last month, as the American ceasefire finally halted the fighting in western Bosnia, I saw the bodies of 11 Muslim men who had been beaten to death by Serbs outside Sarajevo Most.

"There are no heroes in this war," a young government army sniper assured me one cold spring day in Sarajevo. "This is just a dirty game."

There were heroes: the multitude that maintained a sense of humanity and realism, but few were to be found in the command structures of any side. As about a quarter of a million civilians and soldiers died, behind-the-scenes warlords and politicians conducted deals for themselves.

President Milosevic of Serbia sold out the Krajina Serbs to a Croatian offensive this year as surely as Slobodan, its command structure removed by the Bosnian Government six weeks before the Serbs' offensive, was left to its fate a month earlier. In the same year government troops had launched yet another impossible attack against superior forces, this time round Sarajevo, which had more to do with under-the-table dealings than military necessity.

Predictably, the casualty figure was enormous while the offensive was a failure. "If it were really a war



A Bosnian soldier embraces his girlfriend in a Sarajevo park yesterday as the realisation begins to dawn that the peace deal may hold

against the Serb people, then I would return and fight," a Serb told me recently from his new home in Western Europe. "But it isn't. It is a very complex political game where the lives of each side's soldiers are often sold out for whatever is expedient at that particular moment." His view was echoed by a Muslim draft-dodger in London a few days later.

However, the war was never a simple contest between two evils. Although the Bosnian Government's strategy became increasingly brutalised as the war progressed, initially its multi-ethnic pretensions were genuine. It was true on occasion that the government

army had acted with duplicity, targeted civilians, and was responsible for atrocities, but such instances were scarce and were more the product of troops running amok than due to the cold-blooded "cleansing" strategy carried out by the Serbs and latterly the Croats.

The Muslims, recognised only in 1974 by Tito as a separate entity in Yugoslavia, had less nationalist conviction than history allowed Serbs and Croats, and this preserved a modicum of decency and restraint in their mode of warfare. Even in 1995 it was not uncommon to find Bosnian soldiers expressing the principles of multi-ethnicity.

My detached cynicism was wounded in the first summer that I witnessed the war. Accompanying Bosnian soldiers outside Travnik, I saw two young Croat soldiers dragged from a house.

I thought that they would be shot, but they were treated kindly and given cigarettes.

"I never wanted to fight my Muslim brothers," one of the prisoners wept. "I had no choice, I was conscripted." He was 21 years old and I sympathised with his predicament. He was not fascist, I thought. When he asked me to tell his mother in Vitez that he was

alive, I agreed immediately and took his family's address. A Bosnian soldier relieved the prisoner of his knife and ammunition pouches and the two men were led away. Later a calf was slaughtered and cooked. We sliced the meat with the Croat's knife, and as I ate the soldier who had taken the pouches pulled something out of one of them. A minute later I thought he was offering me another morsel of veal, but the flesh he dropped into my hand killed my appetite instantly: it was a woman's ear. The crying prisoner, whom I had pitied, had doubtless sliced it from some Muslim woman shortly before he was

caught. No wonder he had wept so. A couple of soldiers were sent back to kill him, and I found myself as hateful for a minute as the soldiers around me. It seemed pointless relaying his message to his mother, so I wrote up the address as I departed. Perhaps the propaganda was right, and everyone in this war was some sort of extremist.

I cannot believe that the conflict is over. Too many of the reasons for fighting remain, but for millions of innocents the American plan offers at least the chance for a respite to their sufferings. *Videteemo* (we shall see) the Bosnians say.

Net closes slowly on war crime suspects

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE men most closely identified with the bombardment of Sarajevo — Radovan Karadzic, the poet-psychiatrist, and Ratko Mladic, the general politician — are among the more than 40 people who have so far been indicted for war crimes by the United Nations tribunal based at The Hague.

Together the pair ran and inspired the Bosnian Serb campaign for three years. General Mladic in effect militarised the whole adult Bosnian Serb population. Dr Karadzic sticks in the memory as the trouble-haired nationalist who declaimed his epic poems on the hills round Sarajevo as shells crashed on the city below.

At the outset of the Ohio talks the Bosnian Government was insisting that the two should be handed over. The accord says only that people indicted by The Hague court cannot hold office or serve in the armed forces. All signatories, however, have agreed to co-operate with the tribunal; that seems to say that the two men are still needed for the

transition to peace, but not perhaps for long.

Three factors will determine whether the two men end behind bars. First, the legal framework to be sufficiently strong to convict men who gave orders. The debate as to whether "ethnic cleansing" should be classified as genocide is likely to be revived in The Hague's courtroom.

Second, the prosecutor has to establish the chain of command. This is difficult, especially when investigating the activities of President Milosevic of Serbia, who has not been charged but was named as a war crimes suspect by the US State Department.

Third, the apprehension of General Mladic and Dr Karadzic depends on the willingness of Mr Milosevic to hand over his former allies.

If a Western military force is sent to implement the Dayton deal, a brief to extradite the two suspected war criminals may become more feasible, although much will depend on relations between Belgrade and the Serbs in Pale.

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Ohio agreement swallowed by Bosnian Serbs

By Stacy Sullivan and Our Foreign Staff

BOSNIA Serb leaders agreed yesterday to accept the Dayton peace deal negotiated by President Milosevic of Serbia, despite objections to key parts of it, according to reports from Sarajevo.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader who is wanted by a United Nations war crimes tribunal and who would be excluded from power by the peace treaty, took part in a meeting with Mr Milosevic at which it was agreed to meet Bosnian Serb objections through negotiations. Mr Milosevic called the leaders to talks near Belgrade, the Tanjug news agency reported.

As soon as the peace plan in Dayton was signed, a senior member of the Bosnian Serb delegation, Momcilo Krajisnik, who is the Speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament, denounced it, saying it did not meet "even the minimum" of Bosnian Serbs' interests.

However, other prominent Bosnian Serb leaders differed markedly from Mr Krajisnik. General Milan Gvero, a Bosnian Serb and senior aide to General Ratko Mladic and the man marked by Dr Karadzic as most responsible for the rift between the Bosnian Serb military and political leadership, welcomed the peace deal. He said that it was important "really to breathe life into this peace".

After 1993, Mr Milosevic's rhetoric of a Greater Serbia had softened and he began supporting peace initiatives in the interest of getting the crippling sanctions against Serbia lifted.

Despite opposition in the

Bosnian Serb capital, Pale, Banja Luka, the largest city under Bosnian Serb control, supported Mr Milosevic's aim. The Banja Luka Serbs did not fare badly in the peace plan, gaining a chunk of territory, including Mrkonjic Grad and Sipovo.

Since the peace deal to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina was signed in Dayton on

BELGRADE

Tuesday, there has been one question in the minds of everyone concerned. If the Bosnian Serb leaders, General Mladic and Dr Karadzic, are to step down from power and eventually face trial at The Hague, who is going to represent the Bosnian Serbs and how will they react to the peace plan?

The contenders for the present leadership include Mr Krajisnik, whom many believe could be pulled into line



Krajisnik: seen as a leadership contender

by Mr Milosevic; Nikola Koljevic, the Bosnian Serb Vice-President who was a member of the Dayton delegation; and General Gvero. □ Paris: Relations of French peacekeepers killed in former Yugoslavia threatened yesterday to disrupt the signing of a peace agreement in Paris unless two French pilots believed to be held by Bosnian Serbs are freed.

The group said the signing of the peace deal, expected next month, must be delayed until Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignat are released. They have been missing for 11 weeks since their Mirage 2000 was shot down over Bosnia during Nato raids around Pale.

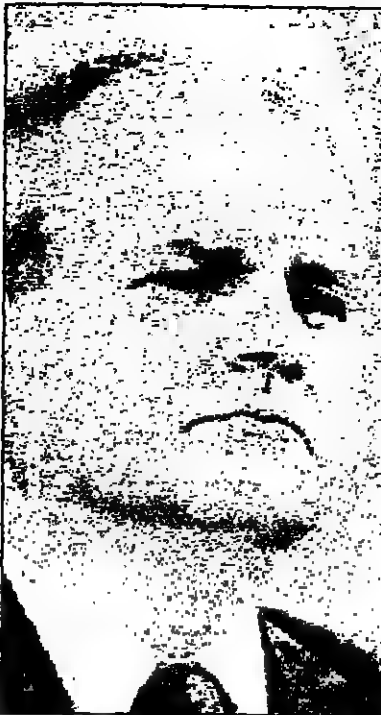
The group said in a statement that it "demands that the Paris conference for the signing of the peace accords be postponed indefinitely until the release of our fellow citizens. If this is not done, a spectacular action may take place," it added.

The foreign affairs committee of the French National Assembly decided yesterday to send a mission to Belgrade to investigate the fate of the two airmen. The five deputies will be headed by François Guillaume, a Gaullist MP.

Although the pilots were captured by members of the Bosnian Serb armed forces, Dr Karadzic has said since that they were seized from a hospital by unknown kidnappers. French officials have voiced fears that they have been killed. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21

Winners and losers in the Balkan conflict



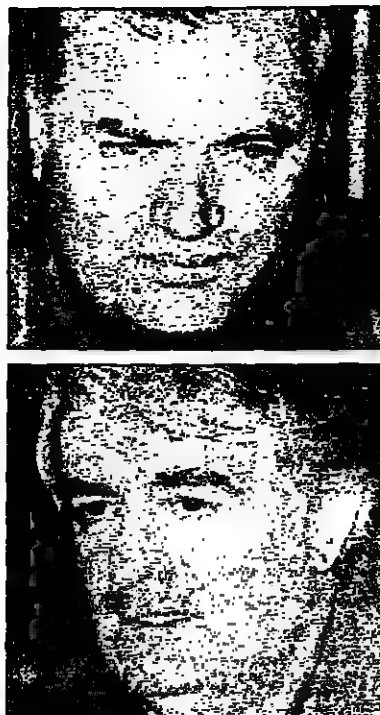
Milosevic: masterminded the "ethnic cleansing" campaign



Alija Izetbegovic: reluctantly hailed by war-weary Muslims



Franjo Tudjman: enlarged and "pure" Croatian state



Ratko Mladic: above and Radovan Karadzic

The President of Serbia has snatched political survival, if not victory, from the defeat of his nationalist dreams. The man who more than any other was responsible for the break-up of Yugoslavia and the Serb attempt to dominate the Balkans, he skillfully switched roles from that of warmonger to peace-maker when things began to go against the Serbs two years ago.

Mr Milosevic used Serb nationalism, especially in Kosovo, to build up a personal following and to position himself as the leader of the movement for a Greater Serbia. His aim was thwarted by the intervention of the outside world. Having armed and masterminded the puppet regime in Pale, Mr Milosevic was unable to ward off international sanctions, which rapidly bit into his unreformed communist economy. This and the cost of war led to unprecedented inflation and the virtual ruin of Serbia's economy.

The reputed mastermind of "ethnic cleansing", Mr Milosevic distanced himself from Pale in an effort to break out of isolation. His manipulation of Serb nationalism and willingness to make peace with international negotiators by abandoning the Bosnian Serbs and sealing the border under domestic opposition, ensured continuing Russian backing and made him, in the end, indispensable to the West. He achieved the virtual independence of 49 per cent of Serb-occupied Bosnia and ensured the removal of sanctions — but at a high cost.

Mr Milosevic must now attempt to assure the war-weary Serbs that it has all been worthwhile. The only way he will succeed is if the immediate removal of sanctions leads to a surge of economic activity.

THE President of Bosnia has failed in his attempt to retain a single, unified country under his Government's control. His is the most bitter acceptance of what he called the "unjust peace", but his achievement in halting the bombardment of Sarajevo and retaining control over a reduced rump is reluctantly hailed by Muslims weary of war.

His support came from nationalists suppressed by Tito. Though he is a bitter enemy of President Milosevic, the two were long thought to have conspired in carving up Bosnia.

Tudjman achieved his aims through a combination of influence, luck,

THE President of Croatia is the big winner. A former Communist and general in the Yugoslav Army, he led the Croatian nationalist opposition after Tito's death, focusing on breaking the link with Serbia. Mr Tudjman wanted an enlarged, ethnically pure Croatian state, and, with the expulsion of Serbs from Krajina, this is roughly what he has achieved.

His support came from nationalists suppressed by Tito. Though he is a bitter enemy of President Milosevic, the two were long thought to have conspired in carving up Bosnia.

Tudjman achieved his aims through a combination of influence, luck,

THE political and military leaders of the Bosnian Serbs are the decisive losers from the settlement. Accused of war crimes by the international tribunal, they have been defeated militarily and politically and are to be excluded from ever holding office again.

Their initial support by Belgrade won them 70 per cent of Bosnia, but their inflexibility led to the breakdown of the Vance-Owen peace plan and their abandonment by President Milosevic of Serbia, who then conducted a personal vendetta against the Pale leaders.

The two long held the initiative in the war, but their duplicity and obstinacy led to their complete political isolation. They failed to force the surrender of Sarajevo or halt Western relief efforts, and decisive Nato airstrikes and the lightning Croatian attack against the Krajina Serbs opened a bitter split between the two.

Overstretched on the ground, General Mladic retained the loyalty of his officers but could not assert political authority in Pale. Dr Karadzic was at first silent on the Dayton deal.

The two have been sidelined in the peace negotiations, and political power may now move away from the hardliners in Pale to the more realistic assessment of the Bosnian Serb situation in Banja Luka.

Dr Karadzic yesterday belatedly accepted the peace proposals, according to initial reports. But this may be mere expediency to stave off what is likely to be political ruin. General Mladic will have to deal with likely calls for resistance to any surrender of territory — but is likely to advise Serb leaders that an immediate confrontation with a new beefed-up Nato force would be hopeless.

Four years after the outbreak of the most devastating conflict in Europe for 50 years, key players have emerged with their reputations enhanced or shattered. Michael Binyon looks at those with the most at stake

Bosnian Government and reverse its losses. He was reluctant to push for independence, knowing that this would upset the ethnic balance in Bosnia, but refused to make concessions to the Serb minority. His Government was beset by feuding and he was a difficult negotiator who counted on the obstinacy of the Serbs to win Western sympathy. The combined pressure of America and the other negotiators in Dayton forced him to settle for a peace which gave him less territory than originally offered by European negotiators. The Bosnian Muslims are left weak, frustrated and angry, and Mr Izetbegovic may fall victim to continuing intrigue in Sarajevo.

Clinton will call on nation to back troops' mission

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON will make a television address on Monday to launch a campaign to win support from a sceptical Congress and wary public for sending 20,000 American troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

His speech has meant cutting short his visit to London and missing lunch with the Queen. British officials said yesterday that the curtailment would be worth it if the President can win support for the deployment.

Mr Clinton will cast the issue in terms of peace versus war and call on Americans to remember the images of Balkan atrocities on their television screens during the past four years. He will make the case that peace in Bosnia is essential for continued stability in Europe.

Bosnia was on Mr Clinton's mind as he donned an apron

to carve turkey for the Thanksgiving holiday at a homeless shelter near the White House. As 50 men, women and children lined up for food, he told them that because of the war a million families were homeless "in that little bit of country, so much smaller than us".

But Republican chiefs raised their voices in opposition to US involvement. Robert



Dole, the Senate Republican leader and front-runner for the party's presidential nomination, said Mr Clinton must demonstrate that it was in the national interest to put so many troops in such a dangerous place so far away. Congress is expected to open hearings next week into the peace accord initiated on Tuesday. Yet even if the vote

goes against Mr Clinton, he will claim the constitutional right to send the troops as commander-in-chief. Such a move would be a high-stakes gamble: a generation of American baby-boomers, which is still haunted by Vietnam, is unnerved at the prospect of young soldiers coming home in body bags.

Sir John Kerr, Britain's Ambassador to Washington, predicted that the prior congressional acquiescence could be to force the Administration to arm and train the Bosnian army or to set a firm date for US troop withdrawal. Neither option is attractive to Whitehall.

Richard Holbrooke, the architect of the jigsaw diplomacy that rearranged the Bosnian map, said American ground troops would not go until the Administration was sure the peace agreement would hold.

QUOTES

War talk reveals frustration and fears

□ The lesson of Bosnia is that when Nato is united behind a policy and determined to carry it out, everything works. But Nato only works when we give full-hearted American leadership and American commitment.

Richard Holbrooke, US Assistant Secretary of State, October 1995

□ Many of the people with whom I have had to deal in the former Yugoslavia were literally strangers to the truth.

Lord Owen, EU Bosnia negotiator: Autobiography, November 1995

□ We have no snipers. Radovan Karadzic, Bosnian Serb leader: January 1993

□ It is not part of our mission to impose any solution by force of arms. We are neither mandated nor deployed for such a mission.

General Rose, British UN Commander in Bosnia: November 1994

□ If you take one of my Warriors, I'll bloody well kill you. Colonel Bob Stewart, British UN commander in Bosnia: April 1993

□ It is necessary to resist the temptation to use military power to speed up the resolution of conflicts. Boutros Boutros Ghali, UN Secretary-General: January 1995

□ We believe that Serbs have the legitimate right to live in one country. If we must fight, then, by God, we will fight. Slobodan Milosevic, Serbian President: 1991

□ Attack, the offensive, is my dominant way of waging war. Ratko Mladic, Serbian military chief: April 1994

□ Some people are trying to resolve the Bosnian question without the participation of Russia. We will not allow this. Boris Yeltsin, Russian President: February 1994

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As the major oil spill clean up contractor to the oil producing companies in Nigeria, we are obliged to state the facts concerning the measures the oil companies, as well as the Nigerian Government through the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) have put in place to minimise the ecological damage to the Nigerian Environment.

At the 1981 Petroleum Industry & Nigerian Environment Seminar, it was agreed by the government and oil producing company representatives, that a joint second-tier response body be set up to augment individual company's in-house spill response capability.

The following year, the eleven oil producing companies comprising NNPC, Shell, Mobil, Chevron, Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC), Elf, Texaco, Agip Energy, Ashland, Pan Ocean and Dubai Oil Company, signed the Heads of Agreement setting up Clean Nigeria Associates (CNA) as a non-profit making voluntary association to combat oil spills inland and offshore of the entire Nigeria and its territorial waters.

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The lady and the love-child

When Sir Nicholas Fairbairn died, he left an unexpected legacy, as Gillian Bowditch finds

As far as anni horribiles go, Lady Fairbairn's 1995 must set some sort of record. Her husband, Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, the Tory MP for Perth and Kinross, died in February after a long and particularly harrowing illness. In the months before his death, his wife rarely left his side.

Three months later, Perth and Kinross, a seat which the Tories had held for decades, fell to the Scottish National Party. But worse was to come. During the by-election campaign, a letter to Sir Nicholas's brother revealed that the flamboyant MP and former Solicitor-General for Scotland was the father of a love-child, the product of an affair with an Australian teacher which his wife had not known about.

Now Sam Fairbairn is faced with the prospect of dismantling the wonderful, fairy-tale Fordell Castle, Fife, in which she and her husband lived for 14 years and which has just been sold.

The 13th-century castle is a magnificent Aladdin's cave of treasures. She cannot bear to leave it, but the new owners move in on February 29 and she is already wondering what to do with the contents. Her husband's old school, Loretto, came yesterday to pick up Sir Nicholas's copies of *Hansard*.

She is battling gamely with the grief: an attractive, elegant woman who has perfect skin and clear eyes. But it is easy to feel that despair could engulf her at any minute.

She was born in Pakistan in 1942, the daughter of a professional soldier, and spent her formative years in Kenya, returning to Britain to marry her first husband when she was just 18.

Her only son, Calum, was born a year later. She and her husband, Alistair, embarked on a peripatetic life living in Nigeria, Singapore, Germany and then Scotland.

It was in Edinburgh that she met Sir Nicholas. "My first husband was chronically unfaithful and I met Nicky when I consulted him about a divorce," she says. "But nothing came of it. I stuck with the marriage but I thought Nicky was amazing. We had an affair for a long time. He was having affairs with other women then as well, but he used to ring me practically every day."

When they married in 1982, she had no illusions that he would be faithful. "I didn't mind at all about the infidelities as long as he didn't bring them home. There was never a tacit agreement but I turned a blind eye."

She was initially attracted by his wit. "He was frightfully clever and he



Lady Fairbairn: "I didn't mind at all about the infidelities as long as he didn't bring them home"

always had the right remark for the right occasion. I know he loved me very, very much. We were just like one, so his peccadilloes did not really matter."

But while she was forgiving of his infidelity, she found the news that he had fathered a love-child "devastating".

Sir Nicholas had met Paddy Mullen, the mother of his nine-year-old son, Edward, in 1978. It was a long-term affair but Sam Fairbairn has never met Ms Mullen, who now lives in Australia.

"I think I was never meant to know about the son," she says. After Sir Nicholas's death, Ms Mullen wrote to his brother. "It was a huge shock," she says. "But about a week before he died I had to look in Nicky's desk. I found two pictures of a little boy. It did set alarm bells ringing."

She brings out the two snaps of a little blond boy. In one of them he is shaking hands with the Queen during her visit to Australia. There is a Christmas card signed "Edward".

"I asked Nicky when he was dying if there was anything he wanted to tell me. I knelt beside his bed, but he said

"I would have liked to have known about the son"

no. I would have liked to have known about his son. I don't know how they thought they were going to keep it covered up."

"Even if he had lived, I think he probably didn't tell me because he didn't want to hurt me. Perhaps he was afraid I would leave him. I would not have done, although there would have been a row."

She has now decided to give £10,000 to Edward and to each of Sir Nicholas's three daughters by his first marriage, despite the fact that Sir Nicholas deliberately cut them out of the will hours before his death.

"There has been a lot of press about me being the wicked stepmother. I haven't been, it is just that there wasn't any money to give them at the time. I think now it is the right thing to do."

She inherited Charlotte, Francesca and Anna when she married Sir Nicholas. "I had a tendency to over-react to them. Sometimes they were difficult and I don't think they liked me very much. I was not the reason Nicky's first marriage broke up."

She describes her stepdaughters' relationship with their father as "volatile". She says he was hurt his daughters rarely came to see him. "Nicky began not to care. Even though he was terribly ill, his brain was working well. He just said 'get the lawyer, I want to change the will'."

She says she does not think his daughters have forgiven her yet for marrying their father. "I was his wife," she says simply. "I did look after him. He was not ill just for six months, you know, he was ill for five years."

Her sorrow at her husband's death is compounded by the regrets Sir Nicholas had about his life. "He never really recovered from having to stand down as Solicitor-General. That was a huge blow. He became disillusioned with the Tories towards the end of his life. He loved Mrs Thatcher and she adored him. The day he died she rang me up and was on the phone for an hour. She was very, very kind."

It took John Major ten days to write a letter after Sir Nicholas's death. Sam Fairbairn feels let down by the Tories. "They neglected Nicky. They could have done more with him. If they had, he would have been much more supportive of them."

Rachel Kelly meets the new Miss Moneypenny

The name's Bond. Samantha Bond

Samantha Bond has endured jokes about her name for most of her 33 years. Since she took the part of Miss Moneypenny in the new £30 million James Bond film *GoldenEye*, the quips have proliferated.

She will inevitably now become best known for playing one of cinema's most famous, albeit minor, roles.

Her predecessor in 14 Bond films, Lois Maxwell, became a household name. Samantha is a very different Moneypenny, more Ms than Miss. She dresses in a little black cocktail number specially designed to flatter her handsome shoulders and slim waist. There are no painted nails or tippy-tappy heels.

Does Samantha believe James has had an affair with Moneypenny? "No," she says. "I think she's far too canny for that. However attractive James may be, you'd no more want to get involved with him than drink ink."

He is still, I'm afraid, one of those men. But then how many 'new men' do you really know?"

Moneypenny actually may have the upper hand, she believes. Bond is momentarily touched by her glamour. "I think that maybe, for a moment, James thinks how nice it would be to have a house in the country with Moneypenny. But then the plot moves on."

The plot has moved on for Samantha Bond too. She is starring in the West End with Dame Maggie Smith in Edward Albee's *Three Tall Women* and did not attend the Bond premiere.

She is nervous of seeing herself on the big screen. "I don't like listening to myself on radio either. You hear yourself, think you don't sound nice, and the honesty of your portrayal goes. You become self-conscious."

Is she fearful of only being famous for the one role? I detect a note of peevishness that publicity has descended for a role which probably lasts two minutes. Filming took two hours.

"I don't think that will happen," she says. "Audiences are used to Moneypenny changing. I'm the third." (A great friend of Samantha's, Caroline Bliss, suggests experience of life's trials. Her voice has a husky edge to it that recalls the young Judi Dench. Hers is a muscular intelligence, her wit subtle and intuitive.)

She briefly separated from her husband, the actor Alex Hanson, 34, who is starring as Joe Gillis in *Sunset Boulevard* at London's Adelphi Theatre, but the couple are reunited. She dismisses the split as a "hiccup" and won't comment further.

But she mentions an earlier love affair in her twenties. "I had love taken away from me. I don't think you can play someone with a broken heart unless you have."

And being a mother has affected every part of her. "Motherhood adds another layer of vulnerability. You sit and watch the news and just cry."

Acting dovetails well with motherhood. "If I'm acting in the evening, then I can spend the day with the children. I'm grateful I've never had to choose between them because of a nine-to-five job."

She lives in a four-bedroom Victorian terrace house in southwest London with her cats, Prue and Squalor.

She is the daughter of the actor Philip Bond, who found fame as the shipowner Albert Fraser in the 1970s television series *The Onedin Line*, and Pat Sandys, an actress-turned-producer who works on *The Bill*. Her brother, Matthew, is the Times television critic.

With her newfound worldwide success, surely she is awaiting the call from Hollywood? "I don't have any great delusions about that," she says. "I am very happy here. I feel more comfortable with theatre because you are more in control of the final object. There isn't any editing."

Filming Moneypenny has left her pleasantly stirred, it seems, but not shaken.



Samantha Bond: "We all need escapism"

was Moneypenny to Timothy Dalton's James Bond.

"Pierce is on a three-picture deal. I would be delighted to remain as Moneypenny, but I am only on a one-picture deal." Isn't it escapist nonsense? "Every one needs escapism. Life is hard enough."

Miss Bond is relieved that film stardom has come with her career well established. Most of her work has been in the theatre for the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre.

Her twenties have passed without playing sweet young things. "I seem to get the older, heavyweight parts."

For all her schoolgirlish reticence, blonde hair, blue eyes, and freckles, there is something about Miss Bond which

THE SUNDAY TIMES

INSIDE THE MINDS OF MONSTERS



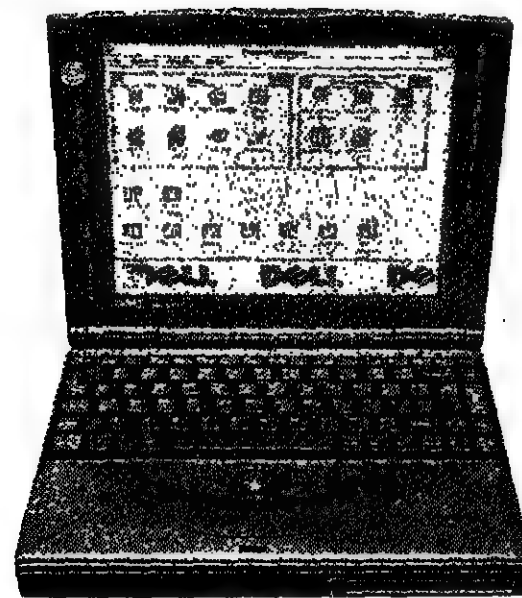
An exclusive insight by the police psychologist who unravelled their secrets

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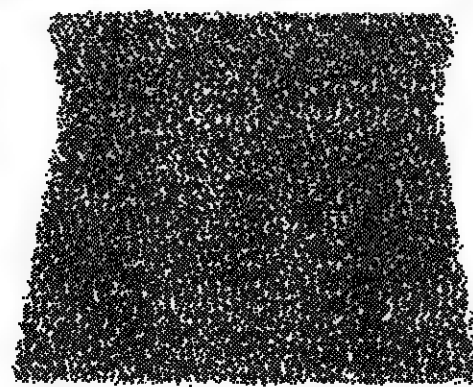
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Why low taxes bring prosperity

Terence Kealey says history favours *laissez faire* nations

While everyone was watching the Princess of Wales on Monday, the Prime Minister was making a much more substantial pronouncement in his Guildhall speech. Mr Major has finally realised that the two richest industrial countries in the world, on a *per capita* basis, are Switzerland and Japan, and that they are the least taxed of industrialised nations. Their people pay only 32-35 per cent of their national income in taxes, compared to our 42 per cent.

Ever since the Industrial Revolution, the richest countries in the world have been the most *laissez faire*. Britain's economic dominance between 1780 and 1890, America's between 1890 and 1970, and Switzerland and Japan's now have all coincided with a position at the bottom of the international tax league. Among more *dirigiste* nations, the same tendencies apply: Germany has generally been richer than France, and less taxed.

The mechanism by which low taxes breed wealth is clear. In the long term, economic growth depends almost exclusively on research and development. In the short term — which determines elections — economic growth is dominated by transient phenomena such as the details of exchange rates, interest rates or unemployment. But in the long term, economic growth is effectively synonymous with technology.

The Agricultural Revolution brought new technology and new practices into the fields. As farmers became more efficient, so labour was spared for the factories of the Industrial Revolution. At the time, some deplored the migration of labour, claiming that if the bulk of workers produced things instead of food, the people would starve. Now that less than 5 per cent of the workforce is agricultural, yet more food than ever is produced, we can discount those fears.

As the factories of the Industrial Revolution in their turn became more efficient, so they spared labour for the service industries. Seventy per cent of the economy is now classified under services, and on current trends it will not be long before only 10 per cent of the workforce is in manufacturing. Profits today belong to this, claiming that only wages are "real" wealth. But thanks to robots and other innovations, these 10 per cent will produce widget mountains, just as farmers now produce food mountains. Medicine, education, policing and the arts are all service industries. It is services we largely want — manufacture is but a means to that end.

The introduction of new technology, to spare labour for service, depends on research and development. So it is no coincidence that the two countries that spend the most on civil R&D are Switzerland and Japan, which devote nearly 3 per cent of the national income to it, whereas Britain and America lag behind at around 2 per cent. Yet the Swiss and Japanese Govern-

ments are the least generous funders of civil research and development in the industrialised world. In those countries, government money accounts for only around 20 per cent of such programmes, whereas the British and American Governments fund around half of their nation programmes. It appears, then, that government funding of civil R&D simply displaces industry's own funding.

So *laissez faire* policies promote economic growth, whereas taxes erode it. In the free market, companies compete to spend more on research to outflank competitors with new products. But if those companies or their customers are taxed, they can no longer afford such programmes.

Dirigiste governments have tried to compensate by funding civil research out of taxes. But these days electorates will rarely tolerate total tax burdens which exceed 40 per cent of national income, and since most high-tax governments are committed to funding comprehensive health, education, welfare, transport, defence and a myriad of other services, governments have to ration money for research. Furthermore, governments typically do the wrong sort of research.

The rationing and misdirection would not matter if individual companies could simply top up the national research budget with their own in-house laboratories, and many big organisations do just that. But for small and medium-sized companies — the ones that drive the economy — the costs of building and staffing laboratories are relatively high, and under the burden of high taxes they simply cannot be afforded. So the nation suffers.

Similar economics apply throughout the service industries. Take the case of healthcare. Where there is a stark division between private and public provision, as in Britain, total national expenditure tends to be low, but where the private and the public systems are harmonised (as in Germany, for example), expenditure is high, because individuals find it easy to top up the State's provision with private insurance.

After a five-year tax-and-spend binge, Mr Major has woken to the realities of long-term growth, and aspires to cut taxes. As a populist, he will find it hard, because cuts in services are always painful. But the management of change, and looking after its victims, are the central social services of modern government. Effective governments facilitate retraining for new jobs in services and advancing technology. Ineffective ones, such as those at the heart of high-tax Europe, try to create an entire economy in the image of the common agricultural policy.

Happily, Tony Blair has begun to glimpse the need for tax cuts to prepare for the 21st century, and Mr Major too is now rushing in with his pledges — a classic example of the benefits of competition.

HOW A MANIPULATIVE BLONDE'S CHARITABLE WORK AND BEAUTY CREATED A POPULAR MYTH



Red in tooth and claw

John Aspinall has taken the idea of making friends with the animals much too far at his zoos

I first encountered Mr John Aspinall some years ago when he was running a gambling house — a very smart and elegant gambling house abutting on Berkeley Square — where the champagne flowed like Niagara. I have a faint memory that he was always getting entangled with the then laws of gambling, and always coming out successful. From time to time I dropped in and lost a few bob; I was never a serious gambler, thank heaven, but the ambience was so pleasant and absurd — it amounted, of course, to foolish people truly believing they could win millions — that I could while away an hour or two sketching out in my mind the novel about gambling that I would one day write. Aspinall made a fortune from his gamblers, but to give him his due, he was a very successful businessman even without them.

I don't know how much attention Aspinall now gives to the cries of *fautes vos jeux*, but few, in the old days, would have guessed what he would turn to. For Aspinall, with or without the whirr of the roulette-wheel, has long ago turned to the growls and roars of great animals; his transmigration was manifestly no joke, nor was it something to take up on Friday and drop, all passion spent, on Sunday. He established Howlets Zoo in 1958, and from then on, almost half a lifetime, he has taken the role of zoo-keeper, and taken it so passionately that it is no metaphor but the literal truth that he has come to love animals more than human beings. (He said some time ago that half of his best friends were wild animals.)

Now Aspinall, in his other life, is not a lunatic. A man who sets up zoos and includes the most fierce and dangerous animals in the world is not playing Pooch-sticks. All care had to be taken, and of course it was. But Aspinall has his theories about the rearing and keeping of animals, especially the great cats, and Aspinall's theories are in the limelight today, not least because a year ago one of the keepers at Howlets Zoo was mauled to death by a tiger. A tragedy indeed; but when I say that this is the third such death caused by the great tigers, it is surely time to examine not the tigers but Aspinall's theory.

Aspinall's theory says that wild animals should keep their wildness; he has recently started to send

orphan gorillas back to the jungle, and to make sure that they do "lead them only every four or five days to mirror their wild state". Now I am entirely ignorant in the behaviour of wild animals, or indeed caterpillars, but even I can understand that if you take a jungle tiger weighing five hundred pounds, and feed it only every four or five days, the tiger is likely to eat anything in sight which it believes edible, including mice, stray dogs, visitors, the railings and, in extremis, Mr Aspinall.

Mr Aspinall is great on bonding, that is "people should bond with the animals soon after their birth, developing a relationship of trust and affection". (In case some of you have got the wrong end of the stick, I should make clear that it is the animals that should be doing the bonding soon after their birth.) But there is no suggestion that Mr Aspinall is ordering his staff to go into the tigers' compound; on the contrary, the keepers are plainly the most fervid tiger companions, and the head keeper, after saying that there is "an inherent risk in handling a tiger" (well, yes), says that it is "a desirability that they remain wild and keep the instinct and ability to kill".

Apart from me, whom or what are they thinking of, when they say that the tigers should keep the ability to kill? If you say that without killing power the great beasts would pine and become milksoops, you must answer this question: why did you bring these noble but savage animals halfway round the world in the first place for people to gawk at?

Mr Aspinall and his colleagues argue powerfully against the more usual means of taming a tiger, such as electric prods and meat given or withheld. Even I shudder at that, and so should anyone who has any feeling. But that only multiplies my questions. Recently, there has been a swell against zoos, any kind of zoos; perhaps it is time to abolish the whole

business. But assuredly, if we did, we would have lost something precious. It is not only that children go wide-eyed when such amazing creatures as the rhinoceros, the alligator, the kangaroo and indeed the parrot come into view; it is the grown-ups, who are reminded of the almost incredible variety of living things in our multitudinous world.

Yes, but Aspinall does go rather far. To bond with a tiger on short commons must be a wonderful experience — if, that is, the tiger doesn't get you first. In Howlets Zoo, three men have died at the claws of a tiger; they were seasoned experts and Aspinall had taken every precaution (including of course going into the tiger's lair himself), but there is an obvious hole in the certainty.

Aspinall, his team, you, me, the man who caught the tiger in the first place, any passer-by — anyone can see the great mistake: nobody, nobody can see into the mind of a tiger.

Tiger! Tiger! burning bright in the forests of the night. What immortal hand or eye could frame thy fearful symmetry? And what shoulder, and what art, could twist the sinews of thy heart? And when thy heart began to beat, What dread hand? and what dread feet?

If you won't take it from Blake, then take it from Professor Paul Bateson of Cambridge University's zoology department, who says rather sensibly that "... a tiger could behave like an overgrown kitten one minute and a highly motivated hunter the next, and it is sentimental and naive to think that closer relationships between keepers and big cats would always be friendly".

But whether the tiger is friendly or hostile, Aspinall gives more to the enemy every time he opens his mouth, viz., "Captive animals should be treated as honoured guests." And he makes it even worse still, by saying, yes, the honoured guests are

dangerous, "... but it is also dangerous to cross the road".

When shall we — that is, the British people — see animals straight? Do you remember the gigantic uproar, a year or two ago, when a very splendid cow (I think it was a cow) which had won prizes for its size and magnificence was going to be slaughtered? No matter that a hundred cows are slaughtered every week or so without anyone screaming the place down or even noticing the nation rose as one, demanding the head of any farmer who would touch a hair of the by-now sanctified beast. Did those who demanded blunderbusses, debates in Parliament, boycotts, masked avengers — did they pause to think how much veal they had consumed in the previous few months? Nay, a much more terrible thought comes unbidden: were there some among the save-the-cow contingent who didn't know where their milk comes from?

Well, Aspinall knows where his tigers come from, and it is quite clear that every one of Aspinall's colleagues is willing to put his head into the tiger's mouth. Moreover, this particular argument would be trivial were it not for the danger. For the battle is between Aspinall and all his colleagues on the one hand, and the law on the other (there must be a funny side if the Health and Safety at Work Act has got into the business). The argument goes on while the tigers growl about their demesnes, but the law says that the keepers may not go into those demesnes with the beasts.

Don't bother to whistle; these amazing people (Aspinall the most amazing) are going to sit down and weep if they are not allowed to go into a tiger's den with the tigers. This is not just bravura; it is their profound but wrong belief that tigers and human beings truly can cohabit. Yet I have to say that there is some mighty evidence on Aspinall's side.

The well also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the falling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Philip Howard



■ The West case has none of the intrigue of an old-fashioned 'domestic'

The ordinariness of Rose West's face on the front pages shocks. This dumpy, bespectacled woman peers out at us as competently as a nanny or a school matron, yet she assisted in a torture chamber that would have given Gilles de Rais nightmares.

Her ghastly trial marked the end of any thought of the English murder as a popular art form. From the Moors murders and Dennis Nilsen to the Yorkshire Ripper and the Wests, post-modernist murder inspires more disgust, despair and boredom than pity and terror.

In his essay *Decline of the English Murder*, George Orwell argued persuasively that after a Sunday lunch of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, an Englishman's native pleasure was to put his feet up on the sofa, light his pipe and read the details of the latest classic English murder. To fit his criteria, the participants needed to be middle-class and suburban, like the reader, with illicit passion boiling behind the face curtains. The house should be semi-detached if not terraced, so that the neighbours could hear suspicious noises from next door. The murderer should be a little man of the professional class, an accountant or a solicitor, say.

The motive was respectability and the need to preserve it. The wife was usually murdered so that the husband could set up with his fancy woman, and the method was usually poison. The murder should have been long planned, so that the reader could feel pity as well as horror. Orwell argued that the English murder was the product of a stable society, where the all-prevailing hypocrisy did at least ensure that crimes as serious as murder should have strong emotions behind them.

This century we have supplanted our full of horrors, mass murders and serial slaughter that murder has lost its unique solemnity. Orwell put the golden age of English murder at 1850 to 1925. Dr Palmer of Rugeley, Neill Cream, Mrs Maybrick, Dr Crippen, Seddon, Armstrong, Bywaters and Thompson. Their names sound a knell as awesome as the prison clock striking eight for execution.

Framed at Wapping we have the classic front page of the *New York Times* of 1910 reporting the arrest of Dr Crippen across the Atlantic by means of Mr Marconi's new invention, his terror and Miss Le Neve's misery, and "the hunted man with revolver in readiness". Orwell might have put his starting date back 20 years, to the *Times*'s reporting of the mysterious death of Lord Graves, found with his throat cut. Rival papers attacked *The Times* for being sensational and causing unnecessary pain. Our defence of "thundering out" against cover-ups of scandals in high society was meant as a gibe, but caught on as a proud nickname for the *Thunderer*.

The popularity of the English murder worked concomitantly with the rise of English detective fiction, with the suspense, the dénouement and unmasking in the library. And only Agatha Christie was ever unsporting enough to make the murderer a butler, window-cleaner or other such character from outside the usual middle-class suspects. P.D. James was referring to this (and so annoyed her neo-brutalist and class-warrior colleagues) when she wrote that middle-class murder, with its repressed emotion and inhibitions, is more interesting than the casual horrors of low-life slaughter.

Jack the Ripper was the exception that helped to define the classical English murder, and foreshadowed the post-modernist murder. For the three months that the Ripper terrorised Whitechapel, *The Times* spared no gruesome detail and published a leading article each week. One took the literary approach: "The mind travels back to De Quincey for an equal display of scientific delight in the details of butchery; or Edgar Allan Poe's *Murders in the Rue Morgue* recur in the endeavour to conjure up some parallel for this murderer's brutish savagery." But the Ripper was never caught or identified, so he can still cast his long shadow as evil personified, not madness unmasked.

The welcome freedom of modern life has made evil wanton and random, and has made murder not only disgusting (it always was) but trite.

Space invaders

RESIDENTS OF one of the most elegant areas of London are digging in against foreign invaders. They claim that an explosion of embassies is in danger of destroying the neighbourhood.

Resistance to the influx of diplomats, which follows the mushrooming of countries in Eastern Europe, is led by a man who knows his ground. Sir Ronald Arculus, our former Ambassador in Italy. His struggle focuses on Kensington Court Gardens, where planning permission has just been granted for the Embassy of Belorussia, despite fierce opposition.

"It's the seventh embassy in what is only a tiny court," says Arculus. "We decided enough was enough and just said — stop!" Residents are appalled at the disruption caused by diplomatic parking spaces, traffic congestion, queues for visas and the prospect of demonstrations by aggrieved parties. After Arculus bashed the ears of old chums at the Foreign Office, civil servants met the council in their own diplomatic effort. The FO and the council have agreed to steer new embassies away from the overcrowded districts of the Royal Borough.

They would be wise to do so. "It is more or less understood that we would resist the next one by lying down in the street or something," threatens Arculus.

As the Prince of Wales sat on the edge of his seat through the premiere of Goldeneye, Camilla Parker Bowles was at the West End performance of *Albion's Three Tall Women*. She didn't even flicker.



"I'm still trying to adjust to a new 007"

when one of the women intoned: "Prince Charming has the morals of a sewer rat."

Clashing dates

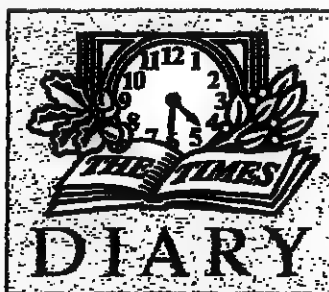
IN AN ATTEMPT to encourage fraternal relations between the Labour Party and their opposite numbers in the European Parliament, an invitation was sent to all MEPs asking them to attend an open day at John Smith House.

But as soon as the invitations started arriving, Euro-parliamentarians discovered that the date in question, December 12, falls during a Strasbourg week when the parliament is sitting — so they can't attend.

Bills to pay

TIMES ARE hard at Blenheim Palace. Not only has the Duchess of Marlborough started flogging her own pictures in a London art gallery for petty cash, but the Duke is to try a new corporate hospitality venture. He has opened a banquet hall, the Orangery, for weddings and conference dinners.

The hall was originally designed by Vanbrugh as a picture gallery and theatre. "Blenheim is part of the national heritage, with very heavy maintenance bills and we



are always looking for ways to increase income to pay our bills," says the Duke down his nose.

My God squad

A FORMER Anglican novice has been offered the job of Editor of the *Daily Express*. Richard Addis, 39, a boyish executive on the *Daily Mail* who spent his first two terms at Cambridge in a habit, spent last night considering his position.

Addis's style is idiosyncratic. As deputy editor of the *Evening Standard's* diary, he encouraged his colleagues to answer the phone in Latin — a technique unlikely to go down well with the grubbers on the *Express*. Yesterday Sir David English, who is Editor-in-Chief at the *Mail* group, was exhorting Addis to stay. Odds are that he won't, and rumours last night said that he

may be joined at the ailing *Sunday Express* by new Editor, Sue Douglas of *The Sunday Times*.

Those planning to fill their faces at Christmas should go easy on the stuffing. Research in Newcastle suggests that sage contains a poison called thujone, which can cause epilepsy, convulsions and damage to the liver.

Ladies' man

STEPHEN HAWKING, the wheelchair-bound physicist, reveals in the current issue of *Cam*, the Cambridge University magazine, that his idol is Marilyn Monroe. "You could say she was a model of the universe." His anti-heroine is Baroness Thatcher, and one of his regrets in life, he says, is that he hasn't yet managed to run over her toes with his wheelchair.

Showdown

AN ACTOR in south London has gone down with a touch of the Stephen Fry. Jonathan Kydd, the lead actor in *Peepshow*, a play set in the 1950s in Switzerland, suffered an artistic crisis and walked out of the show on Tuesday just before the first night, which had to be cancelled. The role required him to



Mind my toes!

play the guitar and to yodel lustily. Apparently he doesn't feel ready. The entire cast trooped off to Kydd's house yesterday to bring him back, but to no avail. "We need a guitar-playing, yodelling actor who fits Jonathan's Lederhosen," says the colleague.

P.H.S



SELECT STATUS

Yes to a schools experiment: no to nationalisation

In an interview with *The Times* today to mark our Schools Week, Gillian Shephard announces new measures to enable grant-maintained schools to choose a proportion of their pupils by ability. It is already open to schools which have left town hall control to select a small share of their pupils. In the interests of educational excellence, this proportion will now be raised to 15 per cent. To champions of the old-fashioned grammar schools this will seem a timid reform; to advocates of the comprehensive system it may seem like an attempt to revive the 11-plus by the back door. In fact, it is neither.

Allowing a school to become partially selective is not the same as turning it into a grammar school. Grant-maintained schools have long been free to apply to the education department for a "change of character" and become fully selective. Mrs Shephard is rightly determined to give such applications "a fair wind". But her main proposal is quite different. When opted-out schools are able to select 15 per cent of their intake without permission from Whitehall, the effect upon school communities of partial selection will be more subtle than might at first be supposed.

The principal objection levelled against the old selective system was that it was socially divisive. Yet the same charge could be brought against the comprehensive system which replaced it. In practice, selection by academic test gave way to selection by property price. Good schools in middle-class areas can pick and choose; bad schools in the inner cities cannot. What has always been needed is an incentive to keep the best and brightest pupils in schools where educational expectations are not traditionally high.

Partial selection is no panacea, but it is a

start. If a school can select a fast stream every year, it can also hope to attract better teachers who will be drawn by the challenge of preparing youngsters for university as well as simply keeping them off the streets. Any school that dares to be selective will interest parents — and not only those who live near by. Mrs Shephard's proposals are to be welcomed for the simple reason that they offer greater freedom to schools. It will now be possible for a struggling local authority comprehensive to achieve grant-maintained status, develop an appealing subject specialisation and select a proportion of its pupils from as far afield as it wishes. There is no guarantee that such measures will work. The point is that they might.

The Government is right to renew its aggressive promotion of opting out. In this year's league tables, grant-maintained schools have performed 6 per cent better than their local authority counterparts. Ministers may be tempted by this impressive margin to revive their old blueprint to abolish the parental ballot by which schools leave local authority control and to impose grant-maintained status on them all at a stroke. The current examination of a national funding formula suggests that a dramatic measure of this kind is not far from their thoughts.

To choose this path would be a grave error. Opting out would be meaningless if it ceased to be an option. The appeal of grant-maintained status is that parents choose it. Their choice encourages schools to specialise, promoting the diversity of provision which the Government believes in. Mrs Shephard's latest proposal for partial selection should enrich the educational tapestry. She should not confuse her message by supporting the nationalisation of schools.

BOSNIA, OHIO

Hold the peace: hang on to the lessons of war

After the bleak drama of Dayton, Ohio, there is already a sense of *déjà vu* about the succession of conferences on Bosnia in milder European capitals over the next few weeks. Eyes will be fixed instead on the battle in Washington over the deployment of American troops, without which the Europeans are — rightly — adamant that the Nato implementation force will not happen. To the barely concealed irritation of the French, the formal signing ceremony in Paris will be America's show.

This flurry of meetings, however, is intended to have a psychological impact. One important lesson of previous Bosnian deals, no sooner sealed than scrapped, has been learnt: peace on paper must rapidly be seen to develop into peace in action. There must be no vacuum in which diplomacy can be undone by the creation of new "facts on the ground". Immediately after Paris, there will be a more substantial two-day conference in London to tie up operational details; then another in Bonn on regional arms control and a pledging session in Brussels to provide funds for postwar reconstruction. The aim is to impress on the most hardline of the Bosnian Serbs that a point of no return has been reached, at the negotiating table and on the battlefield.

Back in Washington, President Clinton's task is to drive home two other Balkan lessons. The first is that however much the Dayton deal owes to the domineering energy of Richard Holbrooke, the American negotiator, its chief chance came from the effective application of Nato airpower, coupled with the related Croat and Bosnian military successes on the ground. The Bosnian Serbs were forced into political compromise. Nato's Operation Deliberate Force cost them much of their military advantage in communications, ammunition and heavy weaponry just when they were being forced out of around 20 per cent of the

land they had overrun. As we have long argued, this was a war that could be halted only when mediation was backed by effective firepower.

The second lesson for Congress is that despite all Mr Clinton's hawking over the past three years, America, and only America, carries the weight to see this difficult peace into being. Congressmen who claim that the Europeans can be left to enforce this deal are being disingenuous. Without American troops in the Nato force, Bosnian Serbs with nothing to lose will set out to sabotage it by refusing, for example, to make the substantial retreat from the Sarajevo area required of them under the peace plan. They will, on past experience, gamble that the Europeans lose their nerve.

Sarajevo's undivided status is the key, not least because the Bosnian Serb centre of power will now shift from Pale to Banja Luka, the northern city whose mayor has already come out in support of the deal. The UN's prompt suspension of most sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro gives Mr Milosevic — whose only interest is hanging onto power in Belgrade — every incentive to make this peace hold. He has economic and military levers of his own; but they will not suffice if Nato is not visibly on the move.

There is a strong probability of a Bosnian Serb grenade or two before Congress votes. It would take only a couple of mortars, a car bomb, some UN peacekeepers taken hostage or killed to put Congress in mind of Lebanon. Mr Holbrooke was unwise to say that if the agreement is violated before Nato deploys, "we're not going to go"; he almost invites such action. It would be a tragedy were Serb efforts at intimidation to sway the vote against the Clinton Administration. Had the West been much more decisive, much earlier, this would not be such an unsatisfactory peace. All the more reason to be resolute in the difficult job ahead.

LIFT THE BAN

Ireland should vote for change on divorce

Irish voters go to the polls today in a referendum that is one of the most momentous in the Republic's history. They are to decide whether the 70-year old ban on divorce should be lifted, bringing Ireland into line with all other European Union states where divorce is legal. This contentious issue is seen as a vital indicator of the influence and political power of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland and the most significant indication of the Republic's readiness to become a fully secular state.

Changing the divorce laws has been a political minefield for Dublin since 1986, when the Government first tabled a constitutional amendment. That proposal and the manner of its introduction were so insensitive, however, that it provoked a storm of opposition even among younger, less religious men and women, and led to a rejection of the amendment by a 2-1 majority. Since then, successive Governments have sensibly moved more slowly and sure-footedly. Their aim has been to bring Ireland into line with modern Western practice without inflaming religious sensibilities or appearing to hark back to old anti-clerical campaigns. Lawyers, social workers, secularists and the leaders of all the main political parties point to more than 80,000 separated couples in Ireland, the need to provide for their children and the hypocrisy of a law that in itself has down little to prevent the breakdown of marriages.

Opponents of divorce appeal to tradition, faith, fears about the decay of family values and the social dislocation that divorce would cause, especially in large, rural families.

The Government's tactic for the past ten years has been to win over the opponents of divorce by enacting a raft of family legislation that deals with many of the contentious and emotional consequences of divorce. Altogether some 18 different laws are now on the statute book, dealing with the status of children — removing any legal discrimination against illegitimate offspring — adoption, rape, childcare, maintenance, social welfare, family law, civil legal aid and domestic violence. The thrust of these Bills has been to recognise modern family law and welfare practices and remove lingering stigma and taboo from a swath of Irish life that has blighted so many families.

At the same time, almost unnoticed, Ireland has introduced other measures that would once have been denounced from every pulpit in the country. Homosexuality is no longer illegal, and the age of consent is equal for both men and women — unlike Britain. Sex education has begun in schools. The ban on contraception has been eased. Abortion is still illegal, but the law now recognises a few specific exceptions. Quietly and steadily, Ireland is moving away from the Orange caricature of a country governed from Rome. Today's vote may consolidate that move.

Payment in line with performance

From the Chief Executive of the Industrial Society

Sir, Concern at the levels of executive pay will be reawakened by the sudden departure from the Cable & Wireless boardroom of Lord Young of Graffham and James Ross. Public disquiet is bound to be provoked by the size of the settlement packages being discussed.

Such payment seems an odd reward for people who have apparently been asked to resign because between them they "could no longer manage the company effectively" (report, November 23). However large the incentives at the top of C&W, strategic relationships, key to achieving the desired results, have broken down. If Cadbury and Greenbury have taught us anything, it is that the demarcation of the roles of chief executive and chairman must be clear, and that remuneration levels must reflect the quality of performance.

The latest survey on executive pay, carried out by the Monks Partnership (report, November 3) showed that directors have enjoyed pay rises of 8.5 per cent in 1995, while the general workforce has received rises of only 3.25 per cent. "Business leaders" are no leaders unless they set a respected example. They are public figures by virtue of their position. Their reward must be seen to reflect both risk and performance.

Everyone needs incentives to perform well at work, not just those at the top. A perceived "them and us" approach to pay does nothing to boost incentives. The rewards for excellent performance should be available to people outside as well as inside the boardroom.

Yours faithfully,
TONY MORGAN,
Chief Executive,
The Industrial Society,
48 Bryanston Square, W1,
November 23.

EC numbers game

From Mr Christopher Booker

Sir, Reluctant though I am to qualify in any way Bernard Levin's hugely flattering reference article, November 17 may I just correct a figure he attributes to me for the number of "ukes" emerging from Brussels? When he quotes me as giving the figure 10,000, this in fact related to the number of regulations or statutory instruments issued by the British Government in the past three years.

It is hard to give a precise figure for the quantity of legislation produced by Brussels, since the best available source, the *Directory of Community Legislation Currently in Force*, is so inadequately indexed. But when I last counted, the total number of directives, regulations and decisions issued by the EC up to the end of 1993 was more than 20,000.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BOOKER,
The Old Rectory, Litton, Bath, Avon.

Eating disorders

From Professor Emeritus Ivor Mills

Sir, Listening to Princess Diana's interview raised two thoughts in my mind; firstly, it was a tragedy she felt that she had to give the interview and secondly, here surely was the unfolding story of a failure of my own (medical) profession.

Post-natal depression is no disgrace but had the Princess been treated with an appropriate antidepressant, she could have been helped out of her depression and also to cope with her "dancer" which, as a perfectionist, she took seriously.

Then she might not have gone on to an eating disorder which we have shown is a compulsive behaviour disease. The work of Dr D. T. Fullerton has shown that bingeing on carbohydrate leads, as high levels of glucose are attained, to a sharp rise in the level of endorphin in the blood. This "endogenous morphine" then has a sedative effect when the patient is under what is felt to be intense pressure.

Bingeing and vomiting is seen by the outsider as a disgusting habit and does nothing to raise the patient's self-esteem.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR H. MILLS,
University of Cambridge Clinical School,
Department of Surgery,
Douglas House,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Trumpington Road, Cambridge,
November 21.

Council's rejoinder

From the Leader and the Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Council

Sir, This is a council which, with an overwhelming lack of resources, is trying to combat and resolve huge social problems. To get the bulk of our members and senior officers, with no attendance allowances, extra pay, or time off in lieu, to spend a small fraction of our annual budget on a special weekend, planning a whole range of future policy (report, "Beleaguered councillors spend £7,000 on summit", November 20), is a matter for praise, not blame.

You quote selectively from a memorandum by the chief executive. It is not surprising that it should take time for a borough to be completely reorganised

Cautious reaction to Queen's Speech

From Mr Alasdair Mackenzie

Sir, The Government seeks to justify tighter controls on asylum-seekers, including the withdrawal of state benefits (Queen's Speech reports, November 16). It says that only 4 per cent of those claiming to fear persecution are found to be "genuine" (report, October 20). This figure grossly misrepresents the truth.

We who work with refugees find that asylum claims are all too often rejected for spurious reasons. The distress and confusion of torture victims are regularly seen by immigration officials as mendacity; they are accused of fabrication or told that their scars "may have been caused accidentally".

Reasons given for rejecting claims often border on the absurd, as with a Bosnian Croat client of mine, who fled Sarajevo after receiving death threats only to be turned away by the Home Office on the ground that "none of these threats were carried out". A family fleeing Ethiopia was assured that political prisoners in that country are kept in "comfortable cells".

Now, to add injury to insult, the victims of such transparent miscarriages of justice are to have even the most basic means of subsistence denied them. Is our proud hospitality to refugees now to be limited to a cardboard box and the scrapings from a dustbin?

Yours faithfully,
A. H. MACKENZIE
(Co-ordinator),
Asylum Aid,
244a Upper Street, Islington, N1,
November 16.

From the Shadow Minister for Housing and Construction

Sir, Your editorial today on the Queen's Speech states that Labour will probably support much of the housing Bill. This is not accurate.

There are indeed elements likely to be included which we will support, such as the voluntary-purchase grant for tenants of charitable housing associations, the extension of housing advisory services and the separate constitution of the housing-association tenants' ombudsman as an independent body.

However, we strongly oppose the main thrust of the Bill, in particular the weakening of statutory safeguards for the homeless, the move towards privatisation of social-housing provision, and the dismantling of the man-

dated home-renovation grant framework.

We also deplore the Government's failure to use the Bill to tackle some of the country's most pressing housing problems, such as the crisis in the home-ownership market, the need for more rented homes financed by the release of local authority capital receipts and new safeguards for leaseholders and tenants in multi-occupied houses.

For all these reasons, Labour will be strenuously opposing the forthcoming Bill.

Yours sincerely,
NICK RAYNSFORD
(Shadow Minister for Housing and Construction),
House of Commons,
November 16.

From Mr James Goudie, QC

Sir, The Government's proposals for a statutory scheme for the disclosure of evidence in criminal trials, unveiled in the Queen's Speech, contain flaws which will need to be addressed if the scheme is not to prejudice the innocent and risk an increase in miscarriages of justice.

Both the Bar Council and the Law Society accept the case for sensible reform of the rules of disclosure. However, we believe that the legislation proposed offers a dangerous temptation to the prosecution to withhold information which might prove the innocence of a defendant.

The Bar Council has recommended that the statutory system of disclosure should offer the safeguard of a legal requirement on the prosecution to provide a signed schedule of material, and that attempting to withhold information from that schedule should constitute a serious breach of criminal procedure. In addition, we have proposed that both prosecution and defence should clarify and define key issues in advance of trial, in order to reduce the time and expense devoted to disclosure.

In recent years we have witnessed a series of high-profile miscarriages of justice; the Government would do well to think very carefully before pressing ahead with proposals without appropriate safeguards.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES GOUDIE
(Chairman,
Bar Council Law Reform Committee),
The General Council of the Bar,
3 Bedford Row, WCI,
November 15.

Lincoln discord

From Mr Arthur L. Bird

Sir, Since the acrimonious meeting of Lincoln Cathedral staff on November 16 (report, November 18) statements have been made affecting the community which are wide of the mark. The Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Reverend Robert Hardy, has been reported locally as saying that "the cathedral is deeply unhappy and deeply divided".

With great respect to the Bishop, who himself deserves support in this difficult problem on his doorstep, he is less well informed than those who are in the cathedral every week and almost daily. The fact is that the community, including others who volunteer their services, go about their tasks and their general participation in and support of the life and worship of the cathedral, with loyalty and enthusiasm. The flock set a standard which their shepherds would do well to follow.

At the conclusion of a consistory court in July we all hoped for a measure of peace and stability. Unfortunately there is now a fresh outbreak of discord, and one can only speculate as to why and how.

Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR L. BIRD
(Chairman, Lincoln Cathedral Community Association),
14 Greenwell Lane,
Nettelham, Lincoln,
November 21.

From Mrs Sally Overton

Sir, The statement in your report of November 18 that "within a year of the Dean of Lincoln's appointment he was reprimanded by the bishop after an investigation into a loss-making trip..." could give the impression that the Dean, the Very Reverend Dr Brandon Jackson, was in some way responsible for the enormous loss made when the sub-dean, Canon Rex Davis, took the Lincoln copy of *Magna Carta* to Australia in 1982.

I would like to point out that Dr Jackson did not arrive in Lincoln until May 1989.

Yours faithfully,
SALLY OVERTON,
The Vicarage,
Leigh, nr Tonbridge, Kent,
November 19.

Balkan danger

From Mr Frank Allauin

Sir, *The Times* reports (November 23) that the Dayton, Ohio, agreement decided that the international embargo on arms sales to former Yugoslavia will be lifted within six months.

It is almost unbelievable that the important move to end the war should be vitiated in this way by supplying the three parties involved with the weapons they need to recommence the fighting. It is an encouragement to them to do so, especially when the old hatreds still exist and will take time to overcome.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLAUIN
(President,
Labour Action for Peace),
11 Eastleigh Road,
Manchester M25,
November 23.

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Yours faithfully,
SALLY OVERTON,
The Vicarage,
Leigh, nr Tonbridge, Kent,
November 19.

Trapped by nature

From Mr M. R. Madigan

Sir, Derwent May ("Trapped by nature's fickle hand", Weekend, November 18) tells of a goldcrest and a swallow caught in the hooked seeds of burdock plants, and of two goldcrests trapped in spider's webs.

Last spring I noticed a small bird flapping wildly on the trunk of a horse chestnut tree. Closer inspection revealed a blue tit glued fast by its wing-tip to a "sticky bud" at the end of a twig growing from the hole.

After carefully releasing it, and while inspecting its wing for damage, I was rewarded by a sharp peck on the thumb and a safe dash to freedom.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MADIGAN,
Greenacre, Pine Grove,
Bishop's Cleeve, Herefordshire,
November 19.

Movement in country life

From Ms Joan Court

Sir, I am grateful for today's double-page advertisement from the Countryside Movement, showing a chicken and egg. It will make a splendid poster for our Animal Rights stall, alongside our own posters showing battery farms and photographs of egg-producing hens, bald, with deformed feet and broken bones crowded in tiny cages, tier above tier in their noisy, smelly sheds.

The commission should not patronise children who, we find, are better informed than most adults about animal welfare and are often fully aware of the massive pollution caused by intensive farming.

Perhaps the movement's next advertisement will show a dairy cow with her calf at her side. If so we will happily display it alongside our own material showing calves in livestock markets, in transport trucks at Brightlingsea and photographs of calves in veal crates in Europe.

In the meantime I will complain to the Advertising Standards Authority that the pretty hen in the advertisement misleads the public. Most hens live their brief lives in hellish conditions and their physical condition reflects their suffering.

Yours sincerely,
JOAN COURT,
74 Sturton Street, Cambridge,
November 20.

From Mr Jason Barbour

Sir, Whatever one's personal views on country sports ("Is this the way to save the countryside?", Magnus Linklater, November 17), one cannot escape the fact that they play a significant part in creating the beauty and diversity of our countryside today.

Woods and hedgerows planted and maintained primarily for game also provide ideal habitat for countless other species of fauna and flora.

To abolish country sports without implementing — and publicly funding — an alternative conservation strategy would be to destroy the countryside as we know it, together with the vast diversity of wildlife that has its home in it.

Yours faithfully,
JASON BARBOUR,
19 Cortayne Road, SW6,
November 19.

From Sir Martin Evans

Sir, I find it ironic that a group of farmers and landowners should be forming a movement to combat a "sanitised countryside, devoid of life" (report, November 17).

In my youth some 40 years ago, I used to walk in the Devon countryside; I now walk in the Cotswolds. The contrast between then and now is overwhelming. The English countryside has become a place where "no birds sing" — or very few of them. It is not the ramblers and townfolk who have been responsible for this.

Yours etc,
M. K. EVANS,
24 Crookwell Street,
Long Compton, Warwickshire,
November 17.

From Mr Gerald Funnell

Sir, As one who does neither, I am at a loss to understand why it should be regarded as cruel to go hunting with a gun but not cruel to go hunting with a fishing rod.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD FUNNELL,
6 The Courtyard,
Linton Road, Hastings,
East Sussex,
November 20.

Protection of fungi

From Police Sergeant Clifford Williams

Sir, Mrs Knell (letter, November 15) wonders why the Government has not devised the same protection for fungi as for wild flowers.

In fact section 4(3) of the Theft Act 1968 protects wild fungi from commercial exploitation by making it an offence for a person to pick mushrooms (including fungus) growing wild on any land for reward or for sale or other commercial purpose.

Restaurant owners could thus be liable for handling stolen goods if they buy wild mushrooms.

Yours faithfully,
C. WILLIAMS,
Basingstoke Police Station,
London Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire,
November 16.

Loss of face

From Mr Christopher Daniel

Sir, As the designer of the armillary sundial outside the Savoy Hotel I was delighted to read Mr Jonathan Ruffell's letter today concerning Vodafone's chief executive, Sir Gerald Whent, in which he says that it appears to be an outside medieval chastity belt. This is a great improvement on the view held by the Master of the Welsh Livery Guild that it is a supermarket shopping trolley.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DANIEL (Warden),
The Honourable Company
of Master Mariners,
HQ's Wellington, Temple Stairs,
Victoria Embankment, WC2,
November 23.

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Sports letters, page 45

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR C. A. MEIER

Professor C. A. Meier, physician and Jungian analyst, died in Zurich on November 15 aged 90. He was born on April 19, 1905.

C. A. MEIER was one of the last men to collaborate with Carl Jung. Like Jung, he worked before the war at the Burghölzli Mental Hospital in Zurich, and afterwards he set up the C. G. Jung Institute in Zurich. He was also, for many years, Jung's unofficial second-in-command, the man who shielded or relieved Jung from public responsibilities, so that he was free to concentrate on his real life's work.

Carl Alfred Meier — always known as "Fredy" — was born in Schaffhausen, which was also the home town of Emma, Jung's wife. It was a typically Germanic Swiss environment but, from his schooldays, Meier himself was attracted by the Latin, and more particularly the Greek, inheritance of Western Europe.

He first met Jung as a schoolboy, and was intensely curious about his work, although originally he intended to become a marine biologist. His youthful contact with the Jung in Schaffhausen eventually brought him instead to a career in medicine. He qualified as a doctor in Switzerland and then studied at the Sorbonne and in Italy. He was both a promising physician and surgeon.

Gradually and irrevocably he was drawn to psychology, as Jung had been after taking a degree in medicine at Basle.



As a result, he joined the staff of the Burghölzli Mental Hospital in Zurich, one of the great mental asylums in the world, where Jung had begun his career at the turn of the century.

From that point, Meier was completely committed to healing not only as a doctor but, increasingly, through using Jungian analysis. He remained very close to Jung almost until the time of the latter's death in 1961.

Their friendship coincided with a period of Jung's life when his public duties were threatening to swamp his real work, and Jung was grateful

to Meier for putting himself so utterly at his disposal. But Meier did not take on the role of helper in any spirit of blind subservience. He associated himself fully with Jung's disagreement with Freud but, significantly, did so only after going to see Freud himself. Like Jung, Meier disagreed profoundly with the route Freud had taken, but was always grateful to him for having found the entrance, through the dream, to man's collective unconscious.

When he was young and impressionable Meier had visited Freud in Austria and was deeply impressed. Afterwards

he walked up and down the tiny country railway platform, waiting for the train to take him back to Switzerland. He was reluctant to go. It was only some hours later that he suddenly came out of this trance, and began to realise that he had experienced what psychologists call "projection".

In the years leading up to the Second World War, with Nazism taking a firm hold in Germany, Meier and Jung worked to help German psychologists who were being persecuted. Meier was shocked later to hear Jung accused of anti-Semitism, by those who had never troubled to study how much work he had done for Jewish colleagues in Germany. When it became essential to get Freud out of Austria, and to find him asylum, Meier and Eddie Bennett (a pioneer of Jungian work in England) organised his escape and asylum in London.

He himself remained in Zurich throughout the war. Afterwards, in 1948, Meier established the C. G. Jung Institute in Zurich. Jung had no great faith in groups and, after the first trickle of students arrived, he had doubts about the lifespan of the institute. But the institute grew steadily and became the largest Jungian training establishment in the world.

Meier left the institute after a decade or so, and became a Professor in Psychology at the Federal University in Zurich — Jung's old chair. Among his publications was a book pub-

lished on medicine as practised in Ancient Greece, focusing on Epidaurus and translated into English as *Incubation*.

Meier had walked all over Greece, and the Greek islands, with the aid of a type of Greek *Basileus* from the 4th century BC. He also recognised it was essential to have a proper textbook for students of Jung, and he set himself the task of writing four of them. All his writing was in German and not widely translated. He visited America frequently, lecturing in universities on "complex" psychology — the early name for Jungian psychology — and had his own clinic in Zurich.

Meier was an unusually frank, uncompromising man. Some complained that he was tactless and did not know how to get on with people. Others, who knew him from the early days of the Institute, saw a very different side to the man — caring, sensitive, and with a great capacity to understand a patient's dreams.

Meier was very musical, and never went to a concert without taking the score with him. He spoke English well and idiomatically, and particularly appreciated the British sense of humour, although he had a more boisterous, almost Swiss peasant, approach to humour himself. He visited England regularly, particularly the Airedale Festival, and counted Benjamin Britten among his friends.

He is survived by his wife Joan, and their daughter, a son having predeceased him.

PETER GRANT

Peter Grant, rock manager, died of a heart attack on November 22 aged 60. He was born in 1935.



MAD, bad and dangerous to know, Peter Grant was the man who launched the rock music industry into the stratosphere of global big business. It was he who made Led Zeppelin into one of the world's most successful rock groups, hurling their music through 70,000 watt amplification, through blinding lights and billowing stage-smoke into vast stadiums of seething fans.

Grant revolutionised rock management. He wrestled with the concert promoters who, before his arrival on the scene, had guaranteed bands payment of only 50 per cent of ticket sales. Grant demanded an astronomical 90 per cent, and got it. Shunning the sort of commercial exposure which groups then courted, Led Zeppelin, under Grant's management, refused to release singles or appear on television. Instead, they filled cavernous venues the world over with a new breed of wild, long-haired rock fan.

Weighing a colossal 18 stone, his ham-like fists encrusted with monstrous rings, Grant became something of a legend who turned rock and roll excess into a hideous art. Cocaine, it is said, was snorted by the teaspoonful, televisions were flung from hotel rooms.

Peter Grant was born illegitimate and brought up in poverty in a scruffy two-up, two-down terraced house in Battersea. He never lost his "sart" London accent and seemed resistant to any attempts at education. "This boy will never make anything of his life," one school report said.

By the age of 13 he was working as a stagehand at the Croydon Empire and he went on to work as a messenger at Reuters, a "dolly boy" in a sheet metal factory, a waiter, a holiday camp entertainer, and a bit-part actor. He put his enormous bulk to use as a wrestler, fighting under the name of Count Bruno Alessio from Milan, and as an actor when he was asked to play the double of Robert Morley.

But it was when he worked in the Two 'n' a C in Soho, where Tommy Steele and Cliff Richard used to hang out, that he first touched on the fringes of the record business. He stumbled into a "proper" career and became tour man-

ager for several American acts, including Gene Vincent, Little Richard and the Everly Brothers. It was Grant who first brought Chuck Berry to England and who got the Rolling Stones their first broadcast on the BBC's *Saturday Club* programme.

In the early 1960s Grant managed the Animals for a while, and then the Yardbirds. The lead guitarist of the latter was Jimmy Page, and, when the Yardbirds split up in 1968, it was he who suggested Grant should come in as the manager of a new band he was forming. Led Zeppelin, Grant admitted that he had no musical knowledge and worked purely on instinct. Led Zeppelin, his instincts told him, were going to be enormous.

Grant became known as the fifth member of the band. Under his Svengalian influence Zeppelin soared to success, netting billions of dollars. Amid legends of grotesque indulgence and debauch, Grant was known as one of the toughest operators in the business. When he visited Atlantic Records in New York (Zeppelin's label), the staff used to cower out of sight. "I won't stand for people taking advantage of the group," he once said. "People seem to forget that the artist is the most important thing."

But, though Grant was often accused of brutality and greed, his relationship with the band was one of confidant

and father-figure. In 1973, when over £70,000 of the band's takings went missing from a safebox, and Grant was arrested on the same night, and briefly imprisoned for allegedly assaulting a photographer, the band stood by him.

Perhaps it is not surprising that when in 1980 Led Zeppelin split up after the drummer died from a vodka binge, Grant went into severe depression from which he did not emerge for two years.

He felt too old to go back into management when he eventually recovered. "Everything has changed," he said. "There are too many accountants roaming around worrying about how many group T-shirts have been sold." He resumed acting in a somewhat desultory fashion and enjoyed taking the role of the cardinal in *Carry on Columbus* (1992), but he did not need the money. He still got his percentage of all Led Zeppelin proceeds.

In later years he lived in a Tudor mansion in Sussex where he housed a huge collection of rare vintage cars. He enjoyed relative peace there, seeming in his later years more a gentle giant than a roaring ogre. "I'd hate to be remembered as a bad person. I've never been a bad person. Never meant to be," he said, in a recent interview.

After 14 years Grant's marriage ended in divorce in 1976. He is survived by a daughter and a son.

THE REV DAVID WILD

The Rev David Wild, MC, MBE, priest, died on November 16 aged 85. He was born on April 12, 1910.

IN MANY ways the most dramatic part of David Wild's life took place over fifty years ago. In 1940 as a young Eton master, recently ordained and married, he found himself serving as chaplain to the 4th Battalion the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in France.

Cut off at Cassel in the course of the retreat to Dunkirk, virtually all the members of the battalion were either killed or captured. Wild himself was awarded a Military Cross for his courage in entering the dead and relieving the wounded under fire.

He survived to be taken prisoner and, refusing repatriation, volunteered to serve as chaplain in Stalag XXA in Poland. For this work he was appointed MBE. His experiences were the basis of his remarkable book, *Prisoner of Hope*, which is rather more than a record of a neglected part of Second World War history. It also constitutes a moving testimony to British troops in adversity.

Robert David Fergusson Wild was the son of the Right Rev H. L. Wild, Bishop of Newcastle, and of Christian Severn, a granddaughter of

the painter Joseph Severn. From Summer Fields he won a scholarship to Eton, arriving in January 1924. His schooldays were not particularly distinguished but he won the Organ Prize, a tribute to his lasting skill at, and love for, music. In 1929 he went up to Exeter College, Oxford, with a classical exhibition, and from there, having already decided to be ordained, to Westcott House, Cambridge.

For a short spell after ordination, he was a curate in Hampshire and chaplain to Cyril Garbett, then Bishop of Winchester, before returning in 1937 to be an assistant master at Eton. In 1938 he married Mary Inge, niece of W. R. Inge, the famous "gloomy Dean" of St Paul's. Convinced that war was coming, Wild joined the Royal Army Chaplains Department in March 1939. He was posted after the outbreak of war to the Territorial unit into which he had been commissioned during his Oxford days.

From May 29, 1940, until November 1941 he was held in an officers' camp, Oflag VIIIC, but he was then allowed to go to a Stalag at Torun on the Vistula which housed some 400 warrant officers and NCOs, mostly British. During the rest of his captivity he travelled around ministering to other ranks in working camps as well as in the main



Wild at Oflag VIIIC in 1941

fort. Occasionally he was to find prisoners dispirited and ill-led, but in general the morale in the camps was magnificent and a tribute to the NCOs in charge. Wild himself courageously stood up for the rights of the prisoners as well as providing pastoral care. He also experienced the warmth of the Polish people and something of their resistance to the Germans. His camp was freed early in 1945 by the advancing Russians. Some anxious months followed before he was repatriated via Odessa. He then resumed his Eton career, bringing back with him CQMS Granger, BEM, one of

the outstanding prisoners he had met, who became manager of Eton's works department.

Wild was a schoolmaster who particularly enjoyed teaching some of the humbler newcomers, among whom he would discover unexpected ability. As a chaplain he was influential after the arrival of Robert Birley as Head Master in securing the creation of a new position of senior chaplain (or "conduct"). He was not himself to hold this office, having in 1951 become a housemaster: he ran a successful house until 1968. Boys were aware of the rich sense of humour masked by his lugubrious manner. Colleagues sometimes found that he would defend his boys with something of the obduracy with which he had earlier confronted prison commanders. His integrity was absolute.

In 1969 he retired to Somerset, where he purchased the old railway pub at Stogumber (the village from which Shaw borrowed the name of his chaplain in *St Joan*). It amused him that some lay colleagues retired to old rectories and he to an inn. He filled pastoral gaps in several parishes and became secretary of the Somerset Guild of Crafts-men. He established an art gallery in the skittle alley by the Railway House, organising exhibitions of high quality, including some of his own watercolours.

Latterly he moved to Crowcombe and it was there that he put together from old notebooks and letters he had sent to his wife while a prisoner of war the book which will ensure his lasting interest to scholars.

He did not find it easy to secure a publisher: one was to complain "... but Mr Wild, could you not at least include an attempted escape?", having missed the point that, as a chaplain, he could have applied to return to Britain at almost any time he chose. Eventually *Prisoner of Hope* was published by the Book Guild in 1992 with critical acclaim and gratifying sales.

In his last year he faced cancer with courage and humour. He is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

BRIAN HILL

Brian Hill, CBE, chief executive of Lancashire County Council, 1977-90, died of a stroke on October 26 aged 65. He was born on October 16, 1930.



BORN and bred in Lancashire, Brian Hill took a stout pride in his county. Perhaps it was this, together with his deep understanding of the Lancastrian people and their at times blunt, if forthright, pragmatism, which made him such a respected figure in local government.

With tact but firmness he steered Lancashire through a complex transitional period in 1974 when local government was reorganised. Subsequently he went on to become chief executive of the county council, a post in which he served loyally for 13 years. He was appointed CBE in 1990.

Brian Hill was born in Wigan, the son of a local businessman. He was educated first at Wigan Grammar School and then at Manchester University, where he read law.

On graduating he went to work as assistant solicitor for Manchester City Corporation where for three years he gained valuable experience in the practice of law, before moving on in 1956 to work as a senior solicitor for Lancashire County Council. It was here

that he was to remain for the rest of his professional life, working his way rapidly up the promotional ladder to become chief executive in 1977. It was an auspicious time to begin, the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Hill was closely involved in the organisation of a royal visit.

Hill was a tough administrator. The co-ordination of every aspect of local government required considerable vision and skill. These he combined with a solicitor's meticulous attention to detail as was evidenced in his work in establishing the first major local authority job creation and development company when the county council set up Lancashire Enterprises in 1982.

Hill will also be particularly remembered for the role he played in the setting up of the Royal Northern College of Music. He himself was an accomplished pianist, and at one point he and his wife had two grand-pianos, back to back in their drawing room, so that they could play together.

Hill's genuine concern for the improvement of his county was shot through with a wry sense of humour which often defused arguments and smoothed over problems. At one time, when compulsive competitive tendering was being introduced, an irate garden contractor arrived at County Hall, depositing a ton of manure on the doorstep by way of a silent, if odorous, protest. Hill's only reaction was to ask the man if next time he might deliver it to his home address for use on the roses.

Even after his retirement in 1990 Hill pursued an active interest in local life and was an energetic member of a variety of societies and committees. Up until the time of his death, he was a member of the Council on Tribunals, a member of the court of Lancaster University, deputy chairman of the Hallé Concerts Society and a member of the Local Government Commission.

Brian Hill is survived by his wife Barbara, whom he married in 1954, and by a daughter.

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MAE WEST
Mae West, the only important female humorist in films and for more than half a century a universal sex symbol in the proper sense of that much abused term, died in Hollywood on the 24th. As a star she enjoyed unparalleled longevity; she played her first leading role on Broadway in 1913, and even in what may well have been her nineteenth year was a continuing star attraction, well able to command top billing for any appearance she made. She was born in Brooklyn some year between 1885 and 1893, and seems to have taken instantly to the greasepaint. She began at the age of five doing imitations at church socials. By the age of 15 she was doing her own song-and-dance act, and in 1911 she married Frank Wallace with whom she formed a Vaudeville team. They soon separated and were divorced. By 1913 she was a top liner; in 1926 with the opening (and eventually the legally enforced closing) of her play *Sex*, Mae West definitely became Mae West. From then on she was the writer and creator of

ON THIS DAY

November 24, 1980

Second in familiarity, but not in piquancy, to her famous invitation was the reply she gave in the cloakroom attendant at a nightclub, who had greeted her with "Goodness! What beautiful diamonds!" "Goodness," Miss West observed, "had nothing to do with it, dearie."

fallen woman. By making sex a shared joke she defused the subject of much of its offensive power — though clearly not enough for many people in the 1920s and 1930s, when she was constantly the target of outraged moralists even while she fortunately remained the darling of the public...

Her fame became inescapable: she was painted by Dalí, parodied by Disney, and later entered the dictionary when, during the war, an inflatable life-jacket was named after her. Later, without actually becoming sexy, she had become the world's shorthand for the idea of sex, a living embodiment of the dangerous truths that sex could be profitable, and sex could be fun. In 1976 when she might well have been 90, she was planning a new film, *Sextette*, observing of a projected remake of *Diamond Lil*: "I could still do it; I still look like Mae West." It was a great part of her charm and perhaps the main reason for the durability of her legend, that she alone in the world steadfastly refused to be taken in by it.



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Enya, the pop superstar nobody knows



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Do single-sex schools get better results?



SPORT 42-48

Thompson charts fight for youth on Moss Side

TELEVISION AND RADIO
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24 1995

Power shares hit as DTI refers NatPower and PowerGen

Lang sends generators' bids to MMC

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

IAN LANG has dramatically intervened in the scramble for Britain's regional electricity companies by referring takeover bids by PowerGen and National Power to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Lang, President of the Board of Trade, ordered an inquiry into the £1.95 billion bid by PowerGen for Midlands Electricity and the £2.8 billion bid by National Power for Southern Electric, putting on hold potential profits of almost £8 a share for more than half a million small shareholders.

Analysts were dismayed at the decision, which left shares across the sector reeling. But it was welcomed by consumer groups, who have opposed both takeovers.

"It is extraordinary and absolutely bizarre. It counters all the signals Ian Lang has given so far," said Marshall Whiting, Strauss Turnbull.

The two were part of a wave of bids in the power industry that has left just three of the 12 distribution companies, or Rees, in England and Wales untouched by takeover activity. But objectors had claimed that they reduced competition in the industry by allowing generating companies to bid for distributors, in contravention of the barriers between the two put in place when electricity was privatised five years ago.

Both generators were disappointed, but National Power was the more outspoken, apparently putting itself on collision course with the industry regulator. Early last month, when the deal was announced, the company said it was putting up for auction 4,000 MW of spare power plant that Professor Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, had asked it to sell by the end of this year.

In a veiled threat to the authorities, however, Keith Henry, the chief executive, said the reference created "considerable uncertainty", and the company was concerned whether the proposed plant sale could now be completed.

The two Rees, along with the other ten, were privatised at a time when the industry was in a state of flux. Lang has said that at this stage, more than two years ahead of the arrival of full competition in electricity supply, someone must say how far the wholesale dismemberment of the sector should go.

Pennington, page 27

240p a share in December 1990, National Power had offered £10.10 a share and PowerGen £10. And both had taken a gamble on their offers going through without regulatory intervention by taking large stakes in their prey. The larger of the two holdings, PowerGen's 21 per cent of Midlands, cost just short of £400 million, and on last night's share price the company was sitting on a loss of almost £20 million.

Mr Lang said that while in general he did not believe that vertical integration of the kind

under consideration was "inherently objectionable", in these two cases the structural change proposed could have an effect on the development of competition in the industry.

Under the timetable laid down by the Government, the supply of power to domestic consumers is opened up entirely to competition by spring 1998. Consumer groups had suggested that if a generator were allowed to own the means of distribution, this would provide a captive market.

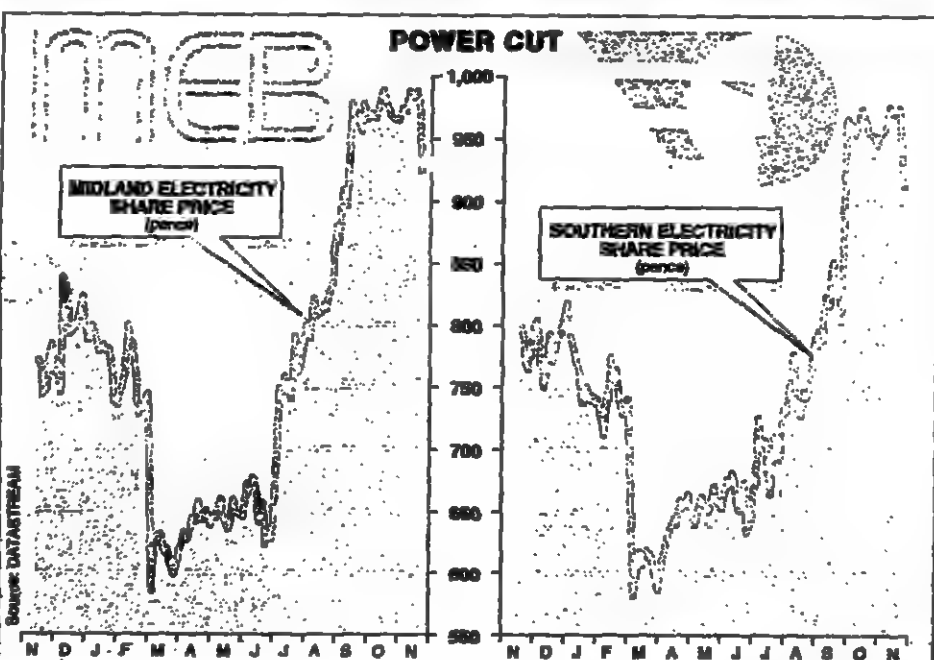
Shares in Southern tumbled 62p to 913p, while Midlands was off 59p to 918p. The generators also suffered, PowerGen falling 21p to 540p while National Power was 10p lower at 478p. Although it had been regarded as a near-run thing, the market had on balance expected the deals to go through. The only other generator-distributor merger, ScottishPower's hostile bid for Manweb, had been waved through despite protests, but the two operate in different areas of the country.

Nigel Hawkins, analyst at Yamaichi International, said: "Certainly the decision was surprising. It does provide a line in the sand between generators taking over distributors and ScottishPower being able to buy Manweb. Market share in England and Wales is important, but perhaps political pressures are too."

The Lang decision was welcomed by Professor Littlechild, who along with the Office of Fair Trading, had called for a reference.



Disappointed: Ed Wallis, PowerGen's chief executive, and John Baker, NatPower's chairman



Shake-up at Stock Exchange under way

By MELVYN MARCUS, CITY EDITOR

A MAJOR shake-up of the Stock Exchange's regulatory operations, including its surveillance of suspected insider dealing activities, is in progress.

Inquiries by *The Times* reveal that the Stock Exchange has decided to merge its supervision and surveillance units within its market regulation department.

Dan Sheridan, who formerly spearheaded market supervision, will emerge as head of both operations and will report directly to Richard Kilsby, the Stock Exchange's director of market services. Mr Kilsby, a former managing director of Bankers Trust, is responsible for all the Tower's regulatory activities.

Mike Feltham, who heads the Stock Exchange's surveillance activities, primarily involving investigations into suspected insider dealing activities and market manipulation, will now focus on the way in which such operations interface with other authorities and regulatory bodies.

These include the Department of Trade and Industry, the Serious Fraud Office, the Securities and Futures Authority and the Securities and Investments Board.

The streamlining of regulatory operations at the Stock Exchange coincides with speculation that SIB, the City's principal watchdog authority led by Andrew Large, is intent on extending its regulatory powers. SIB, unlike the Stock Exchange, does not enjoy the powers to prosecute.

Michael Lawrence, chief executive of the Stock Exchange, confirmed last night that a reorganisation of the Exchange's regulatory department was being implemented. He added: "We are obviously keen to improve the effectiveness of the whole regulatory operation because it can affect the reputation of the London market."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	2592.5	(-59.9)
Yield	3.97%	
FT-SE All share	1764.38	(-12.22)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York	Closed	
Dow Jones	Closed	
S&P Composite	Closed	

US RATE		
Federal Funds	Closed	(5.75%)
Long Bond	(107 1/2)	(5.25%)
Yield		

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	8 1/2%	(8 1/2%)
Life long gilt	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
Future (Dec)	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	Closed	(1.8637)
London		
DM	1.9678	(1.9629)
DM	2.2104	(2.1923)
FF	7.6100	(7.5850)
SP	1.7788	(1.7737)
Yen	157.25	(157.25)
£ index	83.1	(82.8)

YEN & DOLLAR

London	Closed	(1.4104)
DM		(4.8555)
SP		(1.1367)
Yen		(100.90)
£ index	82.5	(82.8)

Tokyo close Yen closed

Brnt 15-day (Feb)	\$15.55 (\$15.55)
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GOLDS

London close	\$362.85 (\$364.95)
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CBI warning

Leaders of the Confederation of British Industry warn that interest rates may have to rise if the Chancellor makes large tax cuts in next week's Budget. The CBI's industrial trends survey also shows a continuing weakening in demand. Page 26

Water plans

North West Water, which recently completed its £1.8 billion purchase of Norweb, accompanied a 21 per cent rise in first-half profits with plans to restructure the combined group in a bid to reduce the number of regulated businesses. Page 27

Kvaerner may go all out for Amec

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

KVAERNER, Britain's largest commercial shipbuilder, was last night considering whether to launch a takeover bid for Amec after acquiring a 10 per cent stake in the construction and contracting group in a £20 million dawn raid.

Amec shares shot up by 27 per cent to close at 99p, just below Kvaerner's 100p buying price, valuing the company at £354 million.

After a hastily-arranged meeting with Sir Alan Cockshaw, the Amec chairman and chief executive, at Amec's Baker Street head office in London, Erik Tonseth, the Kvaerner chief executive, said the Norwegian company was now considering all options.

Kvaerner's raid makes the company the second largest shareholder behind Phillips and Drew Fund Management, which has 14 per cent.

Amec looks set to resist any offer from Kvaerner, claiming yesterday that the potential offer price of £1 a share grossly undervalued the company.

Amec has been hit badly by the slump in the construction industry. At the half-year stage its profits fell by one-third to £6.1 million. The company's response has sought to refocus on high margin specialist work through a partnership scheme and to look abroad for new contracts.

London-listed Kvaerner employs about 4,000 in Britain.

Sir Rocco confident of fending off Granada

By ERIC REGULY

SIR ROCCO FORTE, the chairman of the Forte hotels and catering group, said yesterday that Granada's £3.4 billion takeover attempt was poorly timed, illogical and would not lead to a further restructuring.

His comments came as the City took the view that Forte will have a hard time remaining independent or, if it comes to it, attracting a white knight. One senior investment banker said: "Forte is probably a goner. Granada will just have to come up with a face-saving few more pence in the end."

Sir Rocco, however, seemed confident of fending off Granada. "We plan to focus principally on the inadequacy of their bid, proving that we can

create more shareholder value than they can. They're taking a leap in the dark."

Forte has eight hotel chains, from "exclusive" hotels such as London's Waldorf to the budget Travelodge in the US. Granada has said it would merge some and sell others. Sir Rocco said Forte was already doing just that. A couple of small chains have been sold. He added that he intends to sell the Lillywhites sports shops and the 25 per cent stake in Alpha Airports Group.

Sir Rocco said even the "trophy" hotels were not sacred. "I'm not committed to owning anything. But I would have made a big mistake if I

had sold the trophy hotels in recession. They're beginning to turn around now."

Alex Kyriakidis, head of the hotels practice at Arthur Andersen, the consultancy, said that a counterbid was unlikely to emerge. Santury, the Japanese drinks group, yesterday denied a report that it planned to top Granada's bid.

£ Fees for all the advisers to Granada and Forte will run to more than £30 million. The three financial advisers, Lazard Brothers for Granada and SBC Warburg and Morgan Stanley for Forte, could share about £15 million.

Proud family, page 30
City Diary, page 29

Northumbrian accepts Lyonnaise offer

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE City is anticipating further bid action in the water sector after Northumbrian Water yesterday became the first water and sewerage company to succumb to a takeover.

Northumbrian's board recommended that shareholders accept an offer from the French company Lyonnaise des Eaux which values the company at £823 million, well above City expectations. The offer comprises £11.65 in cash and 14p as a special dividend for each share.

Although the sector is unlikely to witness a bid frenzy on the same lines as the electricity sector, Lyonnaise has opened the door for other potential buyers, and bids are expected to emerge shortly from European utilities or American electricity companies. The most likely targets are believed to be Severn Trent, Southern and Yorkshire Water.

The takeover still has to be cleared by the European Commission, although Lyonnaise was not antici-



Sir Frederick Holliday, Northumbrian chairman, has a clear view

ing any serious opposition last night. During the eight-month battle, Northumbrian's stock market value has risen nearly 60 per cent, to nearly twice the sector average and almost five times its flotation price of 240p.

Customers in the North East will

benefit from a 15 per cent price reduction for their water supply over the next six years, negotiated by Lyonnaise with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission as part of the takeover terms.

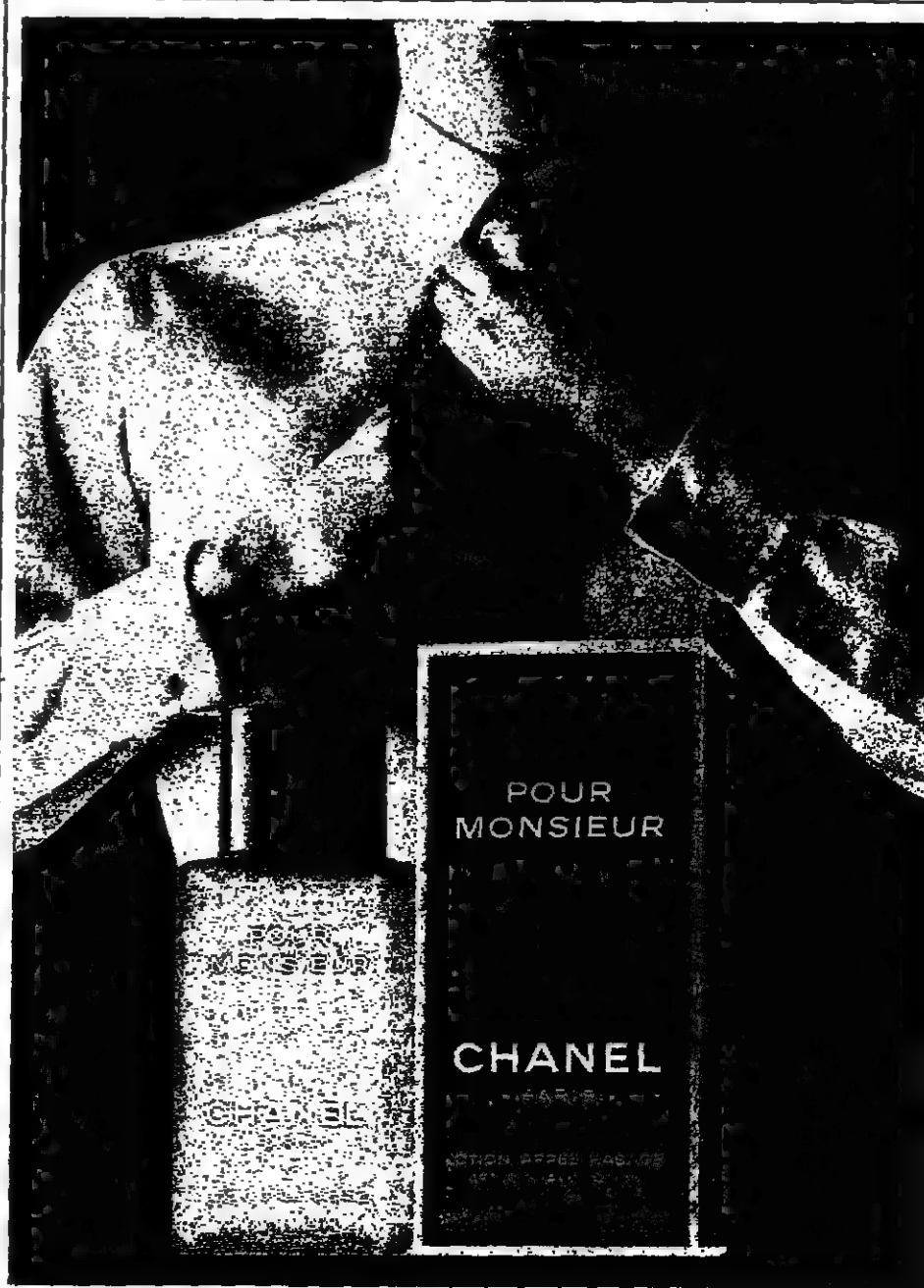
Lyonnaise will launch a cost-cutting

exercise by merging Northumbrian with its existing subsidiary, North East Water, although as part of the agreement with Northumbrian it has given assurances that there will be no compulsory redundancies.

A new holding company, Northumbrian Water Group, to be created, will include Lyonnaise's two other UK interests, Esser and Southern Water, although they will continue to operate under separate licences.

The new company will be headed by Sir Frederick Holliday, Northumbrian chairman, who will also take a seat on the Lyonnaise board, while David Cranston, Northumbrian chief executive, will stay on as joint managing director. The new group, serving 4.2 million customers, will be floated in the UK by 2005.

Northumbrian's 3,000 employees stand to make a total of £20 million in share options from the deal, while David Cranston holds share options worth £1 million and Mike Taylor, finance director, has options worth £833,000. Pennington, page 27



POUR MONSIEUR
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS

CHANEL

Babcock to cut activity in Germany

By Carl Mortished

BABCOCK International is to shut a large part of its German manufacturing activities, which have been hit by the strength of the Deutschmark. The engineering group, which sold 75 per cent of its energy division to Mitsui in August, has embarked on a radical restructuring of its materials handling business, which fell into loss in the half year to September 30.

Babcock yesterday announced pre-tax interim profits of £19.2 million, up from £2.8 million. The results include an exceptional gain of £26 million from the energy division sale, and a £9 million charge for restructuring materials handling. Excluding the two items, profits were unchanged at £2.8 million, but the company declared its first interim dividend since 1992, of 1.25p a share.

Restructuring the materials handling division will eliminate 200 jobs in Germany, where sales have suffered from an 18 per cent rise in the mark against the dollar. John Parker, chairman, said that Babcock intended to change from a manufacturer to an engineering design house. "We want to take capacity down and subcontract manufacturing in low-cost Far Eastern countries," he said.

After the restructuring, German manufacturing capacity will fall by 35 per cent, leaving 10 per cent of the division's turnover linked to manufacturing. *Tempos, page 28*



Nick Salmon, left, Babcock chief executive, and John Parker, chairman, inspect a railcar conversion

CBI urges tax curb in Budget giveaway

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS leaders give a warning today that interest rates may have to rise if Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, provides large tax cuts in next week's Budget.

Leaders of the Confederation of British Industry say that large tax giveaways would put at risk the Government's chances of meeting its inflation target. The CBI's latest industrial trends survey today shows a continuing weakening in demand.

The CBI warning increases the concern by business about the likely level of tax cuts in the Budget, and their effect on what the CBI says today is already likely to be only "sluggish" economic growth next year.

In its latest economic forecast, the CBI says that slowing economic growth, which is dampening inflationary pres-

ures, coupled with modest tax cuts worth about £3 billion and offset by tightly controlled public spending, would provide for a "sustainable" interest-rate cut of half a point early in the new year.

But if the Chancellor cuts taxes next week by "a significantly greater amount without an equal and credible cut in public spending", that might lead to an upward pressure on inflation.

So instead of falling, interest rates might have to rise again to offer the prospect of the Government meeting its inflation target of below the midpoint of a 1 to 4 per cent range.

Kate Barker, CBI chief economic adviser, called for a "prudent" Budget, saying: "With the recent slower rate of growth now expected to persist over the next few months, inflationary pressures in the

economy have lessened. The balance of risks points more to concern over weaker growth than over higher inflation."

The CBI predicts growth across the economy of 2.5 per cent next year, down from 2.8 per cent in its last forecast in August, though it suggests growth then increasing to 2.8 per cent in 1997. Manufacturing output is also forecast to grow strongly over the next two years.

The confederation is trimming its forecast for headline retail price inflation, and says what it sees as a tightening labour market is likely to lead to some upward pressures on average earnings growth.

CBI analysts see consumer spending, forecast to rise by 2.4 per cent next year, set to underpin economic growth over the next two years and an increasing contribution to

growth coming from investment by private business.

The confederation's monthly trends survey for November, published today with the forecast, shows a fall in demand for manufactured goods, as well as a slight pick-up in price expectations. The CBI says though this mainly reflects revisions to price lists normal at the turn of the year.

Output expectations are easing slightly and companies still consider stocks of finished products more than adequate to meet demand. Sudhir Junankar, economic analysis associate director, says: "These results confirm that the manufacturing recovery has slowed, with domestic demand remaining weak and export orders losing their upward momentum."

Foreign boost, page 29

Greenbury guide 'under threat'

By Robert Miller

A GROUP of powerful industrialists is trying to stop the implementation of the Greenbury guidelines on pay and perks for company executives, according to a senior City figure.

Geoff Lindey, chairman of the investment committee of the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF), whose members are responsible for £300 billion of assets, said that many industrialists saw Greenbury as a threat and not as a positive move to improve communications between companies and their shareholders.

Mr Lindey, who was speaking at the NAPF's autumn conference in London yesterday, added that if those who so vigorously opposed more openness on controversial issues such as directors' remuneration packages were successful then "they will have scored an own goal of major proportions and tough legislation will surely follow".

He said that those company directors who set clearly defined performance targets and met them should be handsomely rewarded, but there should be no reward for failure.

Ann Robinson, director-general of the NAPF, told 350 delegates that more needed to be done to encourage people to take up occupational schemes, which were declining in number. A wider range of employers should be persuaded to provide them, she said.

David Morgan, vice-chairman of the NAPF, said that the divorce provisions in the Pensions Act did not go nearly far enough. He advocated that the Divorce Bill in the next parliamentary session should allow couples "to make a clean break" in their pension provision.

Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, said in his closing address: "The biggest long-term problem all governments face is paying for pensions for an ageing population. A recent OECD study shows that Britain is uniquely successful in preparing for that problem by encouraging funded private pensions. As a result, we have built up £500 billion of funds invested for Britain's future pensioners."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Buyback proposed for Littlewoods

THE BATTLE for control of Littlewoods took a new turn yesterday when the board told the 32 members of the Moores family that own the retailing and pools business that the company could afford to buy back up to £250 million worth of shares, but that this would prompt a need to make disposals.

The board's proposal follows the emergence of a "possible" £1.2 billion offer from Barry Dale, who was ousted as chief executive last year. The Littlewoods board is proposing that shareholders complete a review of options open to the company — a process that began before Mr Dale indicated his intentions and which is near completion — before deciding on its future ownership. This would not rule out a sale or flotation later. The buyback proposal has been made to cater for shareholders wishing to reduce or sell their shareholdings immediately. Based on net assets, £250 million could buy a third of the company's equity. An EGM is to be held on December 7. *Pennington, page 27*

Chloride advances

CHLORIDE, the electronics group that is emerging from a lengthy period of restructuring, lifted pre-tax profits to £5.4 million from £1.04 million in the half-year to September 30. Operating profits from continuing operations increased to £2.59 million from £1.43 million. Disposals included the Nigerian and South African battery interests in the latest phase of the refocusing of the business. Earnings were 0.6p a share, compared with 0.3p. The interim dividend is increased to 0.133p a share from 0.1p, payable on January 26.

News International

LES HINTON, the executive chairman of News International, owner of *The Times*, takes on the responsibilities of chief executive officer following the departure of Bill O'Neill. Mr O'Neill, the managing director of News International from 1987 to 1990, resumes his role of executive vice-president, human resources worldwide, for The News Corporation. He returned to News International as chief executive officer in March. Mr Hinton joined News International in August and was previously the chief executive of News America Publishing.

US offer for Gartmore

NATIONSBANK, the American bank, is understood to have made an unofficial offer worth at least 280p a share for Gartmore, valuing the British fund management house at a minimum of £564 million. France's Banque Indosuez is seeking buyers for its 75 per cent interest in Gartmore and its advisers will now consider offers in excess of the bid by NationsBank, which has an existing joint venture with Gartmore. The stock market showed little reaction as Gartmore closed just 1p lower at 285p yesterday.

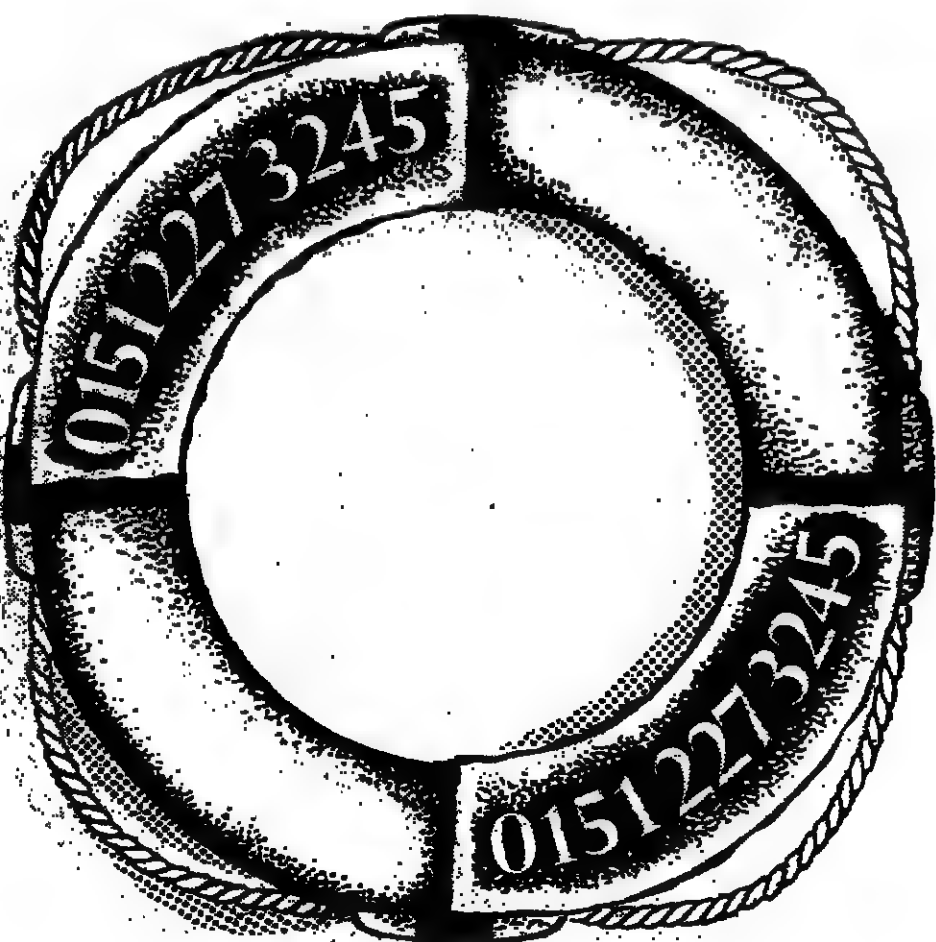
Pensions ruling date

A BENCHMARK ruling upon which the claims for backdated benefits from occupational pensions schemes of 60,000 part-time employees depend will be announced by the Birmingham Industrial Tribunal by December 8. The claims were lodged after a European Court of Justice ruling in September 1994 that employers who bar part-timers from company schemes could be guilty of indirect sex discrimination. The TUC, which is coordinating the claims, said that if the test cases heard by the tribunal are successful total compensation could top £95 million.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.22	2.08
Austria S	18.51	18.01
Belgium Fr	48.30	44.00
Canada \$	2.315	2.088
Cyprus Cyp£	0.742	0.677
Denmark Kr	6.18	8.35
Finland Mk	7.15	8.50
France F	6.01	7.38
Germany DM	2.36	2.16
Greece Dr	378.89	364.88
Hong Kong \$	12.71	11.71
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	6.1800	4.5100
Italy Lit	2887.75	2432.00
Japan Yen	171.89	155.89
Malta £	0.580	0.538
Netherlands Gld	2.321	2.30
New Zealand \$	2.54	2.32
Norway Kr	10.31	9.51
Portugal Esc	241.30	223.00
Spain Ptas	166.50	152.50
Sweden Kr	10.75	10.75
Switzerland Fr	1.91	1.73
Turkey Lira	new	78535.0
USA \$	1.058	1.058

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

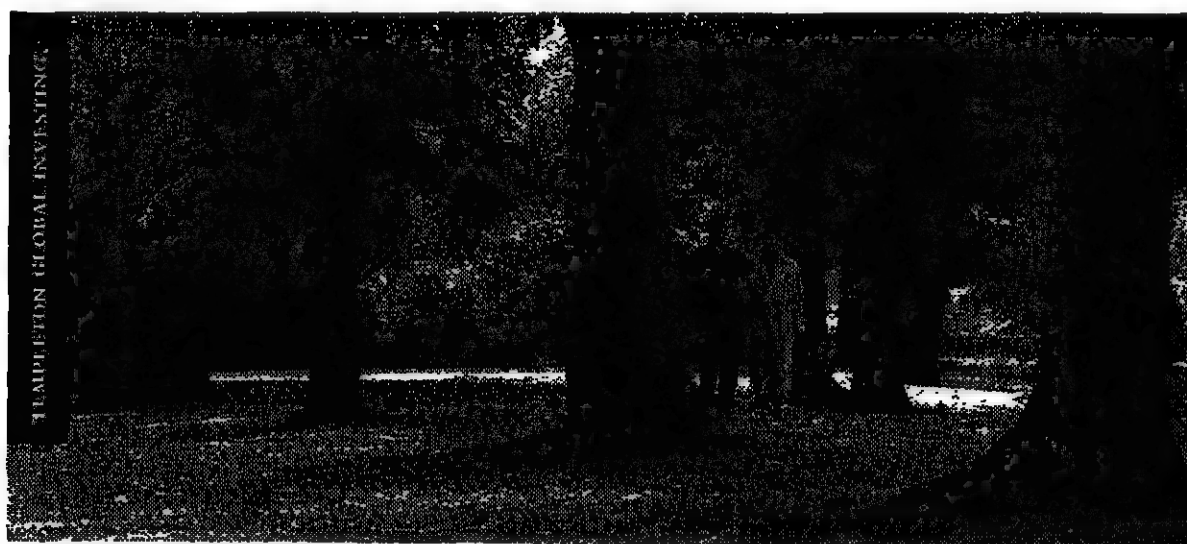


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□ Lang kicks generators to the MMC □ Family shuts the door on Dale □ Northumbrian waters down hopes of bonanza

The president exercises power

THE watchdog has barked at last, and not a moment too soon. Only three of the twelve regional electricity companies in England and Wales are not already bid for or in talks with a possible bidder, and there was a danger of the entire sector disappearing from view without any examination by the regulatory authorities who are paid to rule on such things.

This is not a view that is going to cut any ice with those half a million small shareholders who will feel deprived this morning of their just pickings from the great electricity auction, but it is probably the right one for consumers. Investors should not feel too upset, because the President of the Board of Trade, while stopping two bids in their tracks, has not ruled out any others.

The scorecard runs thus. Northern escaped the Trafalgar House bid earlier this year, slurred down by means of huge payouts to shareholders, and is now a very boring utility, although it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that another approach may be made.

South Western Electricity of the UK, Eastern, Manweb and Norweb are under new ownership, with a small rump of their shares still out in the market but soon to be hoovered up.

Seaboard is under agreed offer from South West Corporation of

Texas—bear with me, the names are all horribly similar. Precedent, in the shape of South Western Electricity's purchase by the equally confusingly named Southern of Atlanta, Georgia, suggests Seaboard should go through and not be affected by yesterday's ruling from the DTI.

Midlands and Southern, after last night, are back on the market. PowerGen has 21 per cent of Midlands, a useful block to any possible rival offer. National Power is less exposed, with 7 per cent of Southern, but this makes it easier for a rival to sneak in with a bid while the MMC is deliberating.

South Wales is in on-off talks with Welsh Water, which is dithering over whether to bid. The latest signals from the City are that analysts would rather any merged entity be run by Andrew Walker, chief executive of the electricity company, than by the water boys, who are not highly thought of.

The wallflowers, London, Yorkshire and East Midlands are as yet untouched, although the betting is that talks have

taken place, but their prince may come. There are plenty of American or continental utilities still keen to get into an industry whose regulation and profits potential compares very favourably with their own.

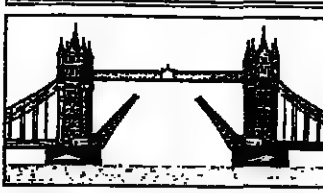
On this argument, yesterday's share price falls across the sector are overdue. Ian Lang has said that at this stage, more than two years ahead of the arrival of full competition in the supply of electricity to private homes, someone must say how far the wholesale dismemberment of the sector should go. The two generators deserve sympathy, but his decision is the right one.

Littlewoods off the boil

UNTIL yesterday, Littlewoods resembled a boiling kettle with the switch stuck. In the last two months, pressure has built to intolerable levels, leaving the retailing and football pools business whistling and shaking on the brink of an explosion.

The man with his hand pressed firmly down on the

PENNINGTON



switch has been Barry Dale, a former chief executive who is trying to put together a £1.2 billion bid for the family-owned company. Family feuding is not unknown at Littlewoods, or at other similarly dynastic businesses — one thinks of the almighty scraps that have

enlivened annual meetings at C&J Clark over the past few years. But the emergence of a possible offer threatened to drive a wedge between the differing camps within the family, leaving little option to the management but to open the doors to other potential bidders.

That was the case until yesterday. Now the management has delivered a decisive strike, leaving Mr Dale about as much

chance of gaining control of the group as he has of winning the Littlewoods pools. By proposing a share buyback, the board has found an effective way of letting the steam out of the kettle by giving any disgruntled shareholders an exit.

The board has calculated it can afford to spend up to £250 million buying back shares from any of the 32 family shareholders. This is enough to fund the purchase of about a third of the company's equity, and so enough to cater for all those shareholders who are toying with the idea of freeing up part of the wealth they have tied up in Littlewoods to buy football teams or whatever else takes their fancy.

If a price is found that pleases both the sellers and the stickers, then the company's future will rest in the hands of those shareholders who have a long-term interest in the group, which is as the family would want it. Given this, it would be strange if those shareholders opted to leap into the arms of Mr Dale rather than consider their future course of action in an orderly fashion, particularly as a review of all

options open to the business is well under way with the help of Coopers & Lybrand and Michael Gatenby, a former banker.

Less of a splash from the French

EACH interested party has got something out of Northumbrian's agreement of terms with Lyonnaisse. In particular employees, including management, will not face compulsory redundancy. That may well justify the hearty handshakes. But just as customers could have done much better from a regulatory auction, so shareholders could have gained even more from a less cosy deal.

Northumbrian is well managed by industry standards. Yet its board has agreed to sell at a 5 per cent discount to the book value of shareholders' funds — signed off by Coopers & Lybrand, its auditors, as a true and fair view. The supposedly generous price paid by Lyonnaisse is only 8.5 times earnings, about two-thirds of the market average, and compares with a minimum 10.5 times earnings for electricity takeovers.

This is clearly another tribute to the formidable negotiating powers of Lyonnaisse, first apparent in its takeover of Essex Water seven years ago and latterly at Ofwat. But it does little to establish what a privatised water group is likely to be worth in a contested takeover.

This has become more relevant because the Northumbrian episode will encourage any further bidders to the sector. Water is not as attractive as electricity because heavy investment needs will in most cases make cash flow negative. Nor are there too many other companies available to bid, excepting the two French contenders.

If it pays North West Water to buy into electricity, however, then water might fit as well into a power group. A utility would also make a calm, solid centre for the sort of company needed to take advantage of the Private Finance Initiative.

At the low rating established by Northumbrian, it would be easy for such buyers to add to earnings per share straight away. But even if bid ratings turn out to be higher than Northumbrian's, investors should not expect too high a price. The company was sold off cheap in the bargain sale that was privatisation in 1989. Investors are now reaping the results of that discount.

North West to shake up joint utility

By ERIC REGULY

NORTH West Water, which recently completed its £1.8 billion purchase of Norweb, said the combined group is being restructured in an effort to reduce the number of regulated businesses.

North West and Norweb, which will be known as United Utilities from next year, will see more than 10 per cent of their 16,000 employees extracted from the regulated water and electricity businesses and put into stand-alone companies. Brian Staples, North West's chief executive, said: "We're going to completely redesign the group. The idea is to create more non-regulated earnings."

He said, for example, that a procurement division is likely to be created to buy materials and supplies for United Utilities. The division, which would be treated as a profit centre, would offer its services to other water and electricity companies as well.

North West's water-testing laboratory could also be set up as a separate business, offering services to the industry, as could Norweb's meter servicing and testing unit.

Mr Staples would not say how many employees would face redundancy in the restructuring.

Separately, North West said it intends to spend another £75 million, on top of the £345 million already committed, to reduce water leakage from 32 per cent to 25 per cent or less within five years.

News of the restructuring plans came as North West reported a pre-tax profit of £167 million in the half year to the end of September, up 21. The figure includes a £72 million profit on the sale of the engineering business to Bechtel, the US construction company.

Turnover increased 8.8 per cent to £531.3 million while earnings per share increased from 37.9p to 39.3p. The interim dividend rises 11 per cent to 9.27p. The next dividend will be paid by United Utilities.

Mr Staples said United Utilities should be able to deliver real dividend growth of 8 per cent or greater, against the 7 per cent real growth promised by North West alone. The shares rose 4p to 609p.



Hamish Bryce, TLG executive chairman, left, with Malcolm Robertson, financial director, expects progress

Growth triples TLG profit to £11.4m

By COLIN NARBROUGH

TLG, Britain's leading light-fitting supplier for the professional market, more than tripled its pre-tax profit in the first half to £11.4 million, buoyed by solid growth in the UK, French and Swedish markets.

The company, of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, was the subject of a leveraged buyout in 1993 from Thorn EMI by Investcorp, the Middle East investment group, which has just floated Gucci, the Italian luxury goods group.

TLG, floated last November, said interim earnings per share rose to 4.1p from 2.6p. The interim dividend of 1.4p is payable on February 15.

Hamish Bryce, executive chairman, said the board remained confident that by focusing on its international strategy and customers' needs, the group would continue to make "good progress" in the second half, to March 31, in spite of pointers to economic slowdown.

The net profit on ordinary activities jumped to £7.3 million from £2.9 million. Operating profit was 25 per cent higher at £12 million. Turnover was 11 per cent ahead at £186 million, improved sales reflected an increased market share and higher return on sales in each of the company's geographic sectors.

Exco shares fall on profit warning

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Exco, the money broker, lost 15 per cent of their value after the company said profits for the current year would be "markedly below current market estimates".

The shares closed 21p lower at 120p, way behind their 185p high for the year and 175p flotation price in July 1994.

Analysts immediately began to downgrade their profit forecasts for 1995, with James Capel lowering its estimate by £10 million to £18 million. That compares with £43.5 million in 1994.

Carel Mosselmanns, chairman, said the company decided to make the warning after continued falls in volumes in wholesale financial markets.

In the first half, Exco's profits fell 42 per cent to £16.1 million and turnover fell 13 per cent to £109.8 million. Mr Mosselmanns said the board

anticipated a similar reduction in turnover for the full year, which would take the figure down to about £204 million.

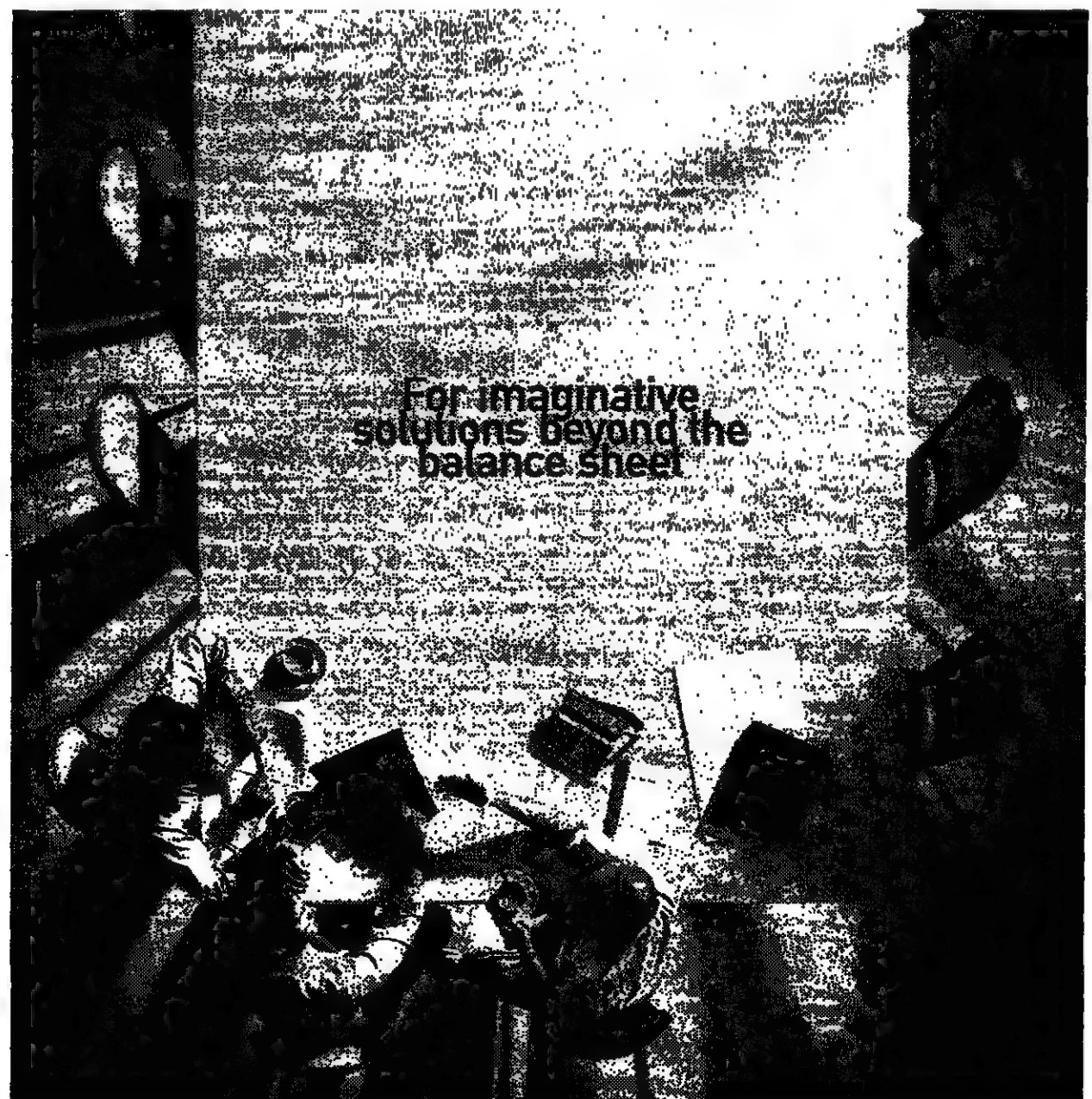
In spite of the difficulties, Exco plans to hold its dividend at 9p for the year.

Calcedonia Investments, the trading and investment company, nudged its pre-tax profits £100,000 higher to £22.8 million in the half-year to September 30.

Calcedonia owns 28.2 per cent of Exco, which, it said, contributed to the downturn in income from associated trading companies, from £13 million to £11.7 million.

The pre-tax figure was boosted by a £1.7 million exceptional profit on the disposal of Clan Asset Management.

The interim dividend is 5.9p (5.7p), payable on January 18.



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BT Important Announcement

Interim dividend payable on 12 February 1996

The company's interim dividend of 7.5 pence per share, ending 31 March 1996, will now be payable to those shareholders on the register of 1 January 1996 and not 10 January 1996 as previously announced.

The date of payment of the interim dividend, 12 February 1996, remains unchanged.

21 November 1995

If you have any queries as a shareholder please call 0345 414141. Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, UK. BT plc, London EC1A 7AL.

New line of command at Caradon

By SARAH BARNALL

IN AN ATTEMPT to ease City concern after a top-level executive departure and a surprise profit warning, Caradon yesterday announced steps to strengthen management controls by switching from running itself on a geographical basis to a product basis.

The move comes less than two weeks after the building products group announced the departure of Daniel Cohen, chairman of the European products division, and its use of Russell Reynolds, the executive search consultancy, to find a chief operating officer.

Caradon, owner of Everest double-glazing, Mira showers and Twyford's bathroomware, has stripped out a management layer, with the result that three out of five divisional directors now report directly to Peter Jansen, chief executive.

The regional executive committees have been disbanded and Tim Walker, formerly in charge of North American operations, is now responsible for the group's commercial development, with Peter Hewett representing the group's interests in North America.

The shares fell 2p, to 190p, on the news. They were 22p before September's profit warning.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

MMC referral pulls power shares down

A DAY can be a long time in the City. Just 24 hours after extending its impressive record breaking run, the London stock market appeared in disarray.

Unable to draw any lead from Wall Street, closed for the Thanksgiving Day celebrations, and shocked by the Trade Secretary's decision to refer both bids by the power generators for regional electricity companies to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, investors found they had little to cheer.

As a result, all the previous day's gains were wiped out, leaving the FT-SE 100 index nursing a loss of 29.9 to 3,602.5. Turnover levels also fell well short of the previous day. By the close of business, the number of shares traded had fallen to 710 million.

The focus of attention switched to the electricity sector in late trading following the referral of PowerGen's bid for Midlands Electricity, down 59p to 918p, and National Power's offer for Southern Electricity, 62p lower at 913p. The fact that the referrals had come so late in the day, in terms of how both bids had been on the table, only exacerbated traders' nerves. Brokers said that the decision seemed out of step with previous decisions made.

The news also left National Power 16p off at 478p and PowerGen 21p down at 540p. There were also losses elsewhere in the sector. Northern Electric fell 16p to 933p, London 33p to 899p, East Midlands 30p to 863p, South Wales 29p to 10.03 and Yorkshire 45p to 871p.

The dawn raid on Amec in the construction group sent its shares soaring 17p to 95p as more than 35 million changed hands. SBC Warburg, the broker, paid 100p a share for up to 20 million shares, or 10 per cent of the company, on behalf of Kvaerner. The speculators are now anxious to see if Kvaerner intends to launch a full bid. Recently there was talk of a merger between Amec and Alfred McAlpine, 1p firmer at 141p.

Incipac's future as a constituent of the top 100 companies appears to be in doubt following the sharp fall in the share price during the past few days. Last week the price was undermined by a profits downgrade from UBS. Now there are fears about the group's ability to maintain its



Shares in Tom Cobleigh, the pub operator, began 41p higher

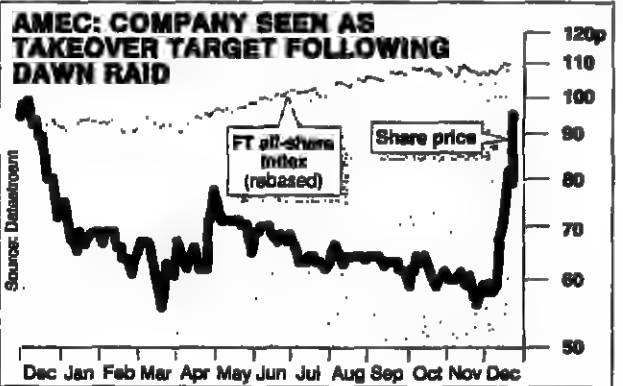
dividend. The share price finished a further 17p lower at 238p.

Northumbrian Water rose 33p to £11.61 on news of the agreed bid from Lyonnaise des Eaux valuing the company at £823 million. The offer of £11.79 a share was above expectations and is expected to trigger further bids. The French were finally given the

Hazelwood Foods has been a dull market lately. Yesterday it touched a low for the year of 92p before closing 7p down at 94p as more than 1 million shares were traded. Brokers attributed this bout of weakness to a cross in 250,000 shares at 94p, providing market-makers with the excuse to call the price lower.

go-ahead after agreeing to a number of provisions, including price reductions totalling 15 per cent. When Lyonnaise des Eaux first approached Northumbrian its shares were trading at the 740p level.

Exco, the money broker, tumbled 21p to 120p after again warning that profits for the full year would fall "markedly below" current expectations. Carrel Mosselmanns,



counted yesterday. There had been talk that Sunbury was prepared to offer 400p a share, having looked at Forte closely several years ago. Now the speculators are pinning their hopes on a counter-offer from the US.

A better than expected set of first-half figures lifted Storehouse 10p to 332p. Doubled profits at its Mothercare subsidiary enabled Storehouse to boost pre-tax profits from £24.2 million to £34.5 million.

Sales at Bhs were down 3 per cent. Brokers are looking for a final outcome of around £115 million for the year.

It was a far from positive outcome at Powell Duffryn as the share tumbled 73p to 480p after the group plunged into the red.

Pre-tax losses were £13 million against a profit of £17 million for the corresponding period. The figure was struck after exceptional charges totalling almost £30 million. Brokers have since cut their forecasts for the full year by around £6 million to £47 million.

The sale by Microsoft Corporation of its entire 17.9 per cent stake in Dorling Kindersley, the publisher of books and CD-Roms, saw DK's shares adding 23p to 527p.

Ferry Pickering surged 24p to 192p after announcing details of an agreed bid from Wace valuing the company at £26.2 million. Wace is offering 195p a share.

There was a scramble for shares in first dealings of Tom Cobleigh, the pub operator, with the price opening at 195p compared with the placing price of 150p. The price finished 41p higher at 191p.

GILT-EDGED: Sentiment remained firm, but without the lead of US Treasury Bonds the London market put up an unconvincing performance.

Prices were squeezed higher in thin trading at the start of business and then did very little for the rest of the day.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished £9/32 higher at £109 1/2.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 5497.00

S&P Composite 340.00

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 14,040.00

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 9,505.67 (+14.08)

Amsterdam: Euronext 463.99 (+1.82)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2,190.70 (+3.1)

Frankfurt: DAX 2,192.25 (+1.08)

Singapore: Straits Times 2,102.56 (+4.66)

Brussels: C2X Index 7,923.96 (+2.75)

Paris: CAC-40 1,867.11 (+5.39)

Zurich: SMI 2,000.00 (+2.18)

London: FT 30 3,602.5 (-29.9)

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TEMPUS
A present from Norway

WHEN Tarmac and Wimpey congratulated each other this month for kicking off the consolidation of Britain's construction industry, they no doubt expected more of the same: sweetheart deals between weak companies, merging or trading assets. Nobody expected an aggressive takeover in an industry with no assets and a workload priced at a level which just about pays the electricity bill.

Kvaerner, the Norwegian company, which raided the market for Amec shares is either very mad or very clever. Since January Amec shares have been in a gentle downward spiral to 55p last month. Bid rumours sent the stock soaring to over 80p, topped yesterday by Kvaerner's 100p per share purchases.

There are some obvious synergies between Kvaerner's process engineering activities and Amec. The Norwegians are big players in the

North Sea oil industry, having built many of the deep-water production platforms such as Draugen and Troll. Amec's energy division may hold some attractions — the British companies but the fat profits from oil rigs have disappeared for ever. Low oil prices have forced the industry to cut costs and deep water oil production will in future be from floating vessels, using less capital.

Scandinavian companies have an unfortunate history of overpaying for assets in the UK. Amec's workload includes some large road building prospects but it would be bizarre if Kvaerner were to be excited by the prospect of sinking money into British highways. Any signs of the Norwegians putting more cash on the table could cause a riot among investors.

Storehouse

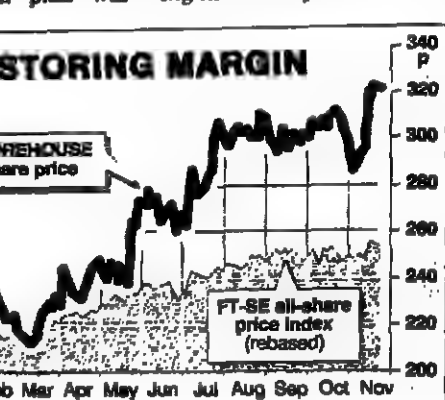
Storehouse has proved the cynics wrong. City pundits that doubted that the management could narrow the gap with rival retailers will have to eat their words.

While revenue growth remains uninspiring the profit in each sale is increasing. Gone are the days when Storehouse was losing money and the shares were skulking at 85p. Another solid set of results — a 42 per cent leap in profits and a near two point surge in the gross margin — is testimony to the recovery.

Bhs is no longer the poor cousin of Marks and Spencer. The gross margin rose 1.5 per cent and is expected to rise further. Mothercare benefited from better stock control, which in turn reduced the level of markdowns, helping drive the

gross margin up 3.1 per cent. However, the company will be hard-pressed to push margins further ahead. Further evidence of the recovery lies in Bhs's 6 per cent return on sales and Mothercare's 5.7 per cent return, up from 1.3 per cent.

The key issue now is whether Storehouse's ambitious expansion plan will



Babcock Intl.

BABCOCK has issued a warning that a spot of restructuring would be necessary in Germany but yesterday's bid and braces job came out of the blue.

Materials handling is an area in which Babcock can boast world leadership in certain products making the profits collapse in the first half a serious blow to the company. Even more so as confidence in Babcock was increasing after the successful sale to Mitsui of 75 per cent of the loss-making energy division.

With overall losses of £2 million from materials handling in the first half, Babcock has probably lost several million pounds from its German operations. The company cannot be blamed for the rise of the Deutschmark but the cost pressures on German manufacturers have been apparent for several years. With one eye on Rosyth and the other

on its deal with Mitsui, Babcock appears to have let things drift.

Fortunately, the company has called a halt. Materials handling is a core business and £9 million should buy a lot of cost savings with a relatively short payback. There is no reason for Babcock to make products in one of the world's more expensive manufacturing locations when most of its customers are in Asia. Short of it metal-bashing bids, materials handling could be sensibly relocated to the UK.

By the end of the year, Babcock could have £50 million of net cash. Some of that is for the Rosyth deal but the company will still have funds to invest. Babcock has the businesses and now it has the balance sheet but it still needs to prove it can put the two together.

Powell Duffryn

The market knew about Powell Duffryn's German litigation

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan
1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10

COCAOA
Dec 1040.10
Nov 1040.10
Oct 1040.10
Sep 1040.10
Aug 1040.10
Jul 1040.10
Jun 1040.10
May 1040.10
Apr 1040.10
Mar 1040.10
Feb 1040.10
Jan 1040.10

ROBUSTA COFFEE
Dec 1040.10
Nov 1040.10
Oct 1040.10
Sep 1040.10
Aug 1040.10
Jul 1040.10
Jun 1040.10
May 1040.10
Apr 1040.10
Mar 1040.10
Feb 1040.10
Jan 1040.10

WHITE SUGAR
Dec 1040.10
Nov 1040.10
Oct 1040.10
Sep 1040.10
Aug 1040.10
Jul 1040.10
Jun 1040.10
May 1040.10
Apr 1040.10
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MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Dec 1040.10
Nov 1040.10
Oct 1040.10
Sep 1040.10
Aug 1040.10
Jul 1040.10
Jun 1040.10
May 1040.10
Apr 1040.10
Mar 1040.10
Feb 1040.10
Jan 1040.10

ICE/LOR (London 6000p)
Dec 1040.10
Nov 1040.10
Oct 1040.10
Sep 1040.10
Aug 1040.10
Jul 1040.10
Jun 1040.10
May 1040.10
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CRUDE OILS (bbl) FOB
Dec 1040.10
Nov 1040.10
Oct 1040.10
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Aug 1040.10
Jul 1040.10
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WHEAT (cwt) FOB
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RUBBER (No 1 RSS cwt) FOB
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BEAN OIL (cwt) FOB
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WHEAT (cwt) FOB
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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Period: Dec 95 - Mar 96

Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar
1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10	1040.10

FT-SE 100
Dec 1040.10
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Jul 1040.10
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Apr 1040.10
Mar 1040.10

FT-SE 250
Dec 1040.10
Nov 1040.10
Oct 104

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A-team motors off at last

IT'S ALL very hush-hush, but the famed A1 licence plate owned for the past decade by conglomerate BTR has finally been sold. I think for about £200,000. BTR, begging no publicity, first put A1 up for bidding in June. Asking price: £250,000. Car buffs didn't exactly break a bumper in their rush, and in July the plate was "twinned" with IA licence plate owned by Car Marks, of Hull.

The hope was to sell them as a pair for more than £350,000. Alas, no luck, and A1 and IA were recently unceremoniously sent a £500 cheque for the wedding broker's trouble. Meanwhile, IA has suddenly been sold to a mystery buyer all wrapped up in offshore bank account... and so has A1. Happy motoring to the new owners.

Young life

LORD YOUNG of Grafton is taking life without C&W remarkably well. At the annual 100 dinner on Wednesday, he introduced the guest speaker, Peter Lilley, and then sat down. Rising to his feet, Lilley turned to Lord Young and said: "The last time I saw you, you were wireless. Now you are jobless. I feared tonight you would be speechless. But I see that you are not legless."

TO NIKKO Europe... a trio of new recruits. Kevin Ryan from Panmure Gordon as insurance analyst, Philip Morris from Smith New Court as chemicals analyst, and Norrie Morrison from Kleinwort Benson for the banking team.



"And breakfast may be served in the nearest motorway café"

Birthday boy

CONFUSION in the Forté camp. And it's not confined to shock-horror take-over bid by Granada. Lord Forté, the great man himself, is coming up for 87. According to all the established reference books, he was born on November 26, 1908. So, happy birthday for Sunday, my Lord. However, one who should know Lord Forté's birthday admitted yesterday that he had been confused when earlier insisting the birthday was on Thursday. That person, Sir Rocco Forté, his son and heir. Meanwhile, the Forté office is equally insistent the birthday falls on Sunday. Oh well... as long as the birthday boy gets a cake with the correct number of candles on it, that's all that matters.

Forté omen

AN OMEN that something was about to happen to the Forté came to a colleague overnighting on Tuesday at the Forté Posthouse just off the M4 near Lancaster. Ordering risotto for dinner, as well one might in an Italian-owned hotel, he gasped for breath when the waiter asked which style of potatoes Sir wanted with it. The disbelieving diner queried "potatoes with risotto"? The reply: "Yes, sir, we have a wide choice."

COLIN CAMPBELL

Foreign-owned firms give a boost to UK industry

Philip Bassett
on a host of
announcements
about new inward
investment projects

Government ministers have a new mantra about Britain's industry and economy. The Prime Minister says it. So does his deputy — and the President of the Board of Trade. And the Chancellor is expected to say it in his Budget next week. Say what? Say that Britain is to be the "enterprise centre of Europe".

Whether such constant repetition — for example, John Major and Ian Lang in their addresses to the Commons on the Queen's Speech, Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke in pre-Budget media interviews this week — marks either a new political point, given Labour's renewed drive for business support, or a fresh push for increased inward investment as indigenous UK industry looks nervous about economic recovery is not yet clear.

What is clear is that it comes in the wake of a host of announcements about new inward investment projects — Siemens of Germany and Korea's Shin-Etsu Handotai of Japan and Chungwa of Taiwan in Scotland last week, and Montpeter of France in Northern Ireland this week.

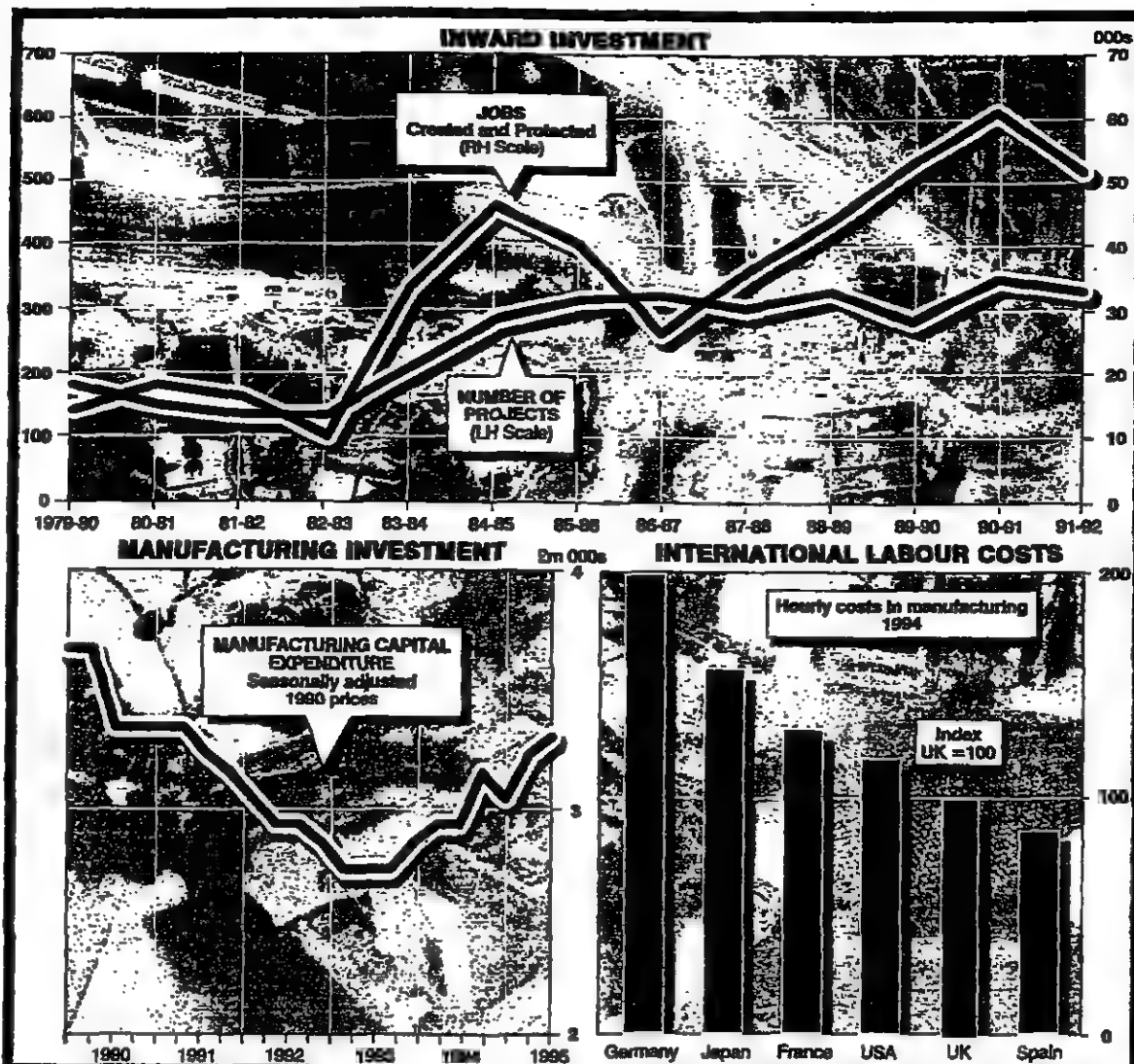
Ministers deny there is any new surge in inward investment, though they know there is political capital to be made from foreign firms coming to the UK. Instead, they insist there has been a consistent growth since the Conservative Government took office in 1979 and that such growth and its associated economic and employment benefits will be placed in jeopardy if Labour wins the general election.

Mr Lang, President of the Board of Trade, says: "Labour would impose huge new costs on business through regulation, through its training tax, through the minimum wage, and through the social chapter. That would discourage not only inward investment, but domestic investment."

Labour sees the issue of inward investment within a larger argument about the vital importance of investment in the economy generally and claims that investment has shrivelled under the Conservatives. Although investment is now rising from a low point in the third quarter of 1993, as the graphic shows, Margaret Beckett, Labour's trade and industry spokeswoman, says: "In real terms, manufacturing investment was more than 17 per cent lower in 1994 than when the Conservatives came to office in 1979."

Inward and overall investment clearly are linked. Figures from the Department of Trade and Industry's Invest in Britain Bureau (IBB) — set up in 1977 by the last Labour Government — show that not only do foreign-owned companies now provide almost a fifth of all the manufacturing jobs in Britain, a quarter of the UK's net output and about 40 per cent of all of Britain's manufactured exports, but that a third of all the UK's manufacturing investment is now carried out by them. The graphic shows the pattern of inward investment in the UK since 1979, measured in terms of specific projects — plants or offices — and jobs.

Although the US captures the largest proportion of the world's external investment, Britain takes the lion's share in Europe, with 40 per cent each of American and Japanese investment in the EU — there are now 225 Japanese plants in the UK alone — and even 20 per cent of German and French EU investment. In terms of its stock of direct investment, currently about £130 billion, the UK is rated second, behind only the US, in an analysis by the World Economic Forum of 39 coun-



tries, and third in terms of its recent inward flows, behind America and France. The tables show, by investment level and job numbers, the top ten of Britain's most recent inward investment successes.

The inward investing companies themselves, although often hard to please, are equally generous in their praise for what they find in the UK. Yukihisa Hirano, managing director of Toyota in the UK, says: "We have met our quality goal from day one, and every day since then have produced cars that are every bit as good as those built by Toyota in Japan."

Peter McKie, of Du Pont in the UK, says: "We're very happy in Northern Ireland — which is why we've expanded there." Suzuburo Ihara, Mitsubishi's international general manager, says its Scottish plants are a vital part of the company. Yukio Kaneko, production director of Fujitsu in the UK, says: "It is nice to see that the standard of operation and quality of personnel in Durham have reached a level of performance comparable with that of our operation in Japan."

Inward investors come to Europe, and to the UK in particular, for a range of reasons. The main ones are low corporate and personal taxation, an open market, government grants, a skilled and educated labour force, a relatively stable political and economic environment, reasonable transport and good telecommunications infra-

structures, and English as the native language.

Grants can be a key factor. Toyota declined government grants for its Derby assembly plant, but for others, the Government's regional selective assistance grants are important. Of the most recent, Siemens picked up £30 million in RSA grants, Samsung £58 million and Jaguar £48 million — with other non-cash grant aid on top.

Ministers insist that they are not bribing companies to come here. Andrew Fraser, IBB chief executive, estimates that Britain would still attract at least 80 per cent of the companies that do locate here, even if there were no grant aid. So why have it? Tim Eggar, Industry Minister, believes it will eventually go, saying that the Government hopes "over a period of time" to be able to move down the percentage of grant aid. They deny, too, that they are buying jobs — Siemens's grant, for instance, works out at £16,600 per job — or that government policy unapologetically favours only foreign-owned inward investors, pointing out that 60 per cent of RSA grant by value goes to indigenous UK firms.

Low labour costs, as shown in the graphic, and minimal labour regulation are a factor for some inward investors — though by no means all. Sony, in South Wales for two decades, cites the cost of labour as second to bottom in its checklist

of 11 key factors. Toyota says: "We do not consider low wages to be a factor in our investment decisions. But others do. Philip Shelley, plant manager at 3M Orthotech, says: "It costs 30 per cent less to manufacture in the UK than in the USA. Bernd Pischetsrieder, chief executive of BMW, Rover's owner, says: "Structural change has made Britain by far the most attractive place to invest in Europe."

During an inward investment "drumming-up business" trip to Germany last week, headed by the Prince of Wales, Herr Pischetsrieder told UK ministers that although average take-home pay in Britain is 75 to 80 per cent of German levels, labour costs in the UK were only 48 per cent of those in Germany. This is largely because of low UK tax rates and high German non-wage social costs. Ministers like to claim Britain's avoidance of such social costs, in its opt-out from the Maastricht treaty's social chapter, as a key factor. Although precise evidence is hard to find, Mr Eggar says there is "overwhelming anecdotal evidence" that Britain's labour flexibility is a major advantage for would-be and actual inward investors.

Ford, for so long now in Britain it can barely be counted as an inward investor, does cite the social chapter as something that "could introduce constraints to flexibility, and increase costs", and Rittal, the German-owned computer component manufacturer in Plymouth, recently filled an order for Compaq that its German parent could not do — because UK employment law allowed it to pick up, over a weekend, the short-term temporary workers it needed to complete the job. But Ian Gibson, Nissan's managing director, says: "I do not see the so-called social chapter adding enormously to costs." He argues that even if costs were increased, the company would seek to win them back through increased productivity — suggesting that the social chapter would in effect "make us more efficient and more competitive".

Tim Eggar sums up the official view on inward investment: "It's the best objective assessment of competitiveness you can get."

TOP TEN RECENT INWARD INVESTMENTS

a) By Capital Investment					b) By Jobs				
Year	Company	Country of origin	Amount of investment (£m)		Year	Company	Country of origin	Number of jobs	
1 1995	Toyota	Japan	450		1 1995	Jaguar	USA	6,000	
2 1994	Samsung	Korea	450		2 1995	Nissan	Japan	4,200	
3 1995	Fujitsu	Japan	400		3 1994	Samsung	Korea	3,200	
4 1995	Fujitsu	Japan	400		4 1994	Honda	Japan	2,000	
5 1995	Jaguar	USA	400		5 1994	NEC	Japan	2,000	
6 1994	Honda	Japan	330		6 1995	Siemens	Germany	1,800	
7 1994	Motorola	USA	250		7 1995	Fujitsu	Japan	1,600	
8 1994	SCA	Sweden	250		8 1991	Sony	Japan	1,400	
9 1995	Nissan	Japan	250		9 1995	Toyota	Japan	1,200	
10 1995	Toyota	Japan	220		10 1995	N Telecom	USA	900	

Source: DTI

Source: DTI

Insure directors for victims' sake

From Mr Nigel Wilkins
Sir, After monitoring, for many years, the losses suffered by shareholders, employees and creditors of companies controlled by rogue directors, I find little merit in Simon Roper's arguments against professional indemnity insurance for company directors (Business Letters, November 2).

Indemnity insurance should be compulsory for directors, not as a means of letting auditors off the hook but to provide additional protection to victims of dishonest directors.

Such insurance is even more essential in the event of fraud since it is highly likely that the fraudulent directors would have taken the precaution of moving their assets beyond the jurisdiction of the courts.

Since there are criminal as well as civil remedies against fraud, the question of moral hazard is less serious than Mr Roper suggests. The agency problem would not arise if directors themselves were responsible for providing their own indemnity insurance, rather than the companies on whose boards they sit.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL WILKINS,
8 Petersham House,
Harrington Road, SW7.

Conservatives undermining the firms that Sid bought

From Dr Kenneth Gulleford

Sir, Tom Benyon's thesis that the private investor is disadvantaged in comparison with the institutions ("Why the parties need to win Sid", November 8) is valid so far as it goes, but it tells less than half the story.

The more severe problem facing Sids like myself is the unscrupulous campaign by the Conservatives to undermine the companies which they induced the public to buy. Ostensibly the object was to benefit the consumer but in reality to enhance their own electoral prospects by claim-

BICC's high targets may not be in the interests of shareholders

From Mr Peter Charles

Sir, Pennington praises Alan Jones of BICC (November 16), as a sensible man warning all the businesses within the company to earn a return on capital of 20 per cent.

Shareholders may not view his demand quite so favourably. With inflation currently below 3 per cent and moving towards the Government's target 2.5 per cent, Mr Jones is asking BICC businesses to make a return in real terms of well over 15 per cent.

What kind of business will be able to earn returns at such

ing to be the conquerors of inflation.

Their unremitting hostility to British Gas is perhaps the most severe example. This company has had to endure its markets being handed to competitors, who it is then obliged to mollify, its management disrupted by having to co-operate in its own demise according to a timetable of industrial logic and with only the next general election in mind. All this is not to mention the regulators, about whose independence from politicians I am, at best, sceptical, who have demanded stringent

price-cutting on a scale previously unknown in any large-scale enterprise.

I sold half of my holding in British Gas in 1994 for 34p, but dithered over the rest, now down to 22p, a loss of 33 per cent in value, and going down. If British Gas is now in terminal decline, as the regulator is suggesting, it will be wrong to do with Cedric Brown's salary but death by a thousand cuts inflicted by the Conservative Party.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH GULLEFORD,
Wheatheaf House,
4 Carmelite Street, EC4.

St Michael's future secure

From Mr Keith Oates

Sir, In your report, "M&S looks at future without St Michael" (November 17), you correctly identify a review being undertaken into the clarity and helpfulness of store signage and information but go on to speculate on a future without the St Michael brand name. I can assure all our customers, staff and shareholders that we have no intention now or in the future of dropping the St Michael name.

The St Michael brand name is widely recognised, not just in the United Kingdom but around the world. Indeed in recent years we have invested time and money to safeguard the Marks & Spencer and St Michael trademarks around the world as we expand internationally. St Michael goods are now sold in 440 locations in 24 countries and the brand name is an integral part of Marks & Spencer.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH OATES
Deputy Chairman,
Marks & Spencer,
Baker Street, W1.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Staying ahead of the festive card fraudsters

Sara McConnell finds banks are ready for a rush in 'plastic' crime

Christmas starts early and finishes late for plastic-card fraudsters. From now until the January sales, they will be out in force looking for rich pickings, particularly in busy shops at tills manned by inexperienced, temporary staff.

But card-issuers are determined not to allow fraud losses to rise to the dizzy peak of 1991, when the industry collectively lost £165 million. Shocked into action, issuers fought back. By last year, losses were £96.8 million.

In the last four years, banks have invested heavily in sophisticated fraud detection technology, staff training and research. They have made their cards more difficult to copy by building in new security features. They have started working together, exchanging information to eradicate fraud. Underlying all this is a fundamental change in the issuer's approach to fraud management. Ian Ogilvie, Midland Bank's head of risk manage-

ment, says: "There was a lot of focus in the 1980s on the back end — the cops and robbers approach. Now, in the 1990s, the emphasis is on the front end — analysing and checking patterns." He adds: "To me, fraud is a marketing issue. Know your customer, know your criminal."

This new cerebral approach to card fraud does not mean there will be no arrests at shop counters around Christmas. Barclays has promised that police officers on mountain bikes will be poised, as they "traditionally" have been, to swoop on fraudsters as they hand over suspect cards. Plain-clothes police will be on duty in shopping centres to detect attempts at card fraud. Midland's fraud managers still describe card frauds as "attacks", "scams" and "stings" in best police vernacular. Good old-fashioned arrests are a vital part of the battle against fraud.

But a fraudster caught at the till is now more likely to be part of an international gang than a lone chancer. The card he or she is using is likely to be an impressive counterfeit, bearing the number of a real card whose owner still has the original

6 The sort of criminals we have drawn up business plans?

Banks' computer systems automatically check purchases against normal spending patterns, scoring them for possible fraud. At the Midland, staff check through the highest scoring card numbers and contact customers to see if they have their cards. In many cases they do, but their number has been used on a counterfeit card. One customer's statement bore obvious signs of fraud — ten transactions on a single day at a branch of Tesco.

Such pattern checking now goes further than just a single card. The aim is to build up patterns. A number of cards used at the same retailer could mean the retailer was crooked. A batch of cards intercepted in the same postal district could indicate thieves at a sorting office. Banks share information with the police. All this has helped but fraud prevention can be disheartening work. Mr Ogilvie says: "Fraud is like a balloon. Wherever you press, it bulges out elsewhere."

But a fraudster caught at the till is now more likely to be part of an international gang than a lone chancer. The card he or she is using is likely to be an impressive counterfeit, bearing the number of a real card whose owner still has the original



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The life and times of a hotel chain that has booked its place in history

A proud family under the spotlight

BY JON ASHWORTH AND PHILIP PANGALOS

GRANADA'S blitzkrieg swoop on Forte has forced a proud and secretive family into the full glare of an unwelcome spotlight. Lord Forte, 87 this weekend, could scarcely have imagined that the empire he founded from such humble origins so many years ago, would face so serious a threat so late in the day. For his son, Sir Rocco, the clash with Gerry Robinson threatens to be a make-or-buy struggle.

Sir Rocco and his sister, Olga Polizzi, are directly in the firing line in terms of financial investments in Forte. Sir Rocco held 14,422,975 shares in the company at the end of January, worth £50.6 million at yesterday's closing price of 35p. His exercisable options

worth about £19 million. Lord Forte, president, had a beneficial interest in 13,336,311 ordinary shares, worth nearly £46.9 million at yesterday's closing price. Non-family directors with significant shareholdings include Sir Paul Girolami, former chairman of Glaxo, and Sir Anthony Tennant, chairman of Christie's, and previously at Guinness. Their stakes are worth in the region of £740,000 and £129,000 respectively.

Tito Chiandetti, director of catering services, held a stake worth nearly £853,000 at the end of January, and stood to make an additional profit of about £248,000 from share options. George Proctor, group commercial director, had 127,849 shares, worth nearly £449,000. His exercisable options would provide an additional profit of about £240,000 if exercised at yesterday's closing price. Mr Proctor also had a non-beneficial interest in a further 23,992,406 shares, worth about £83.8 million. All directors are on one-year service contracts.

The dizzy sums are a far cry from the £2,000 borrowed by Charles Forte in 1935 and used to fund the Meadow Milk Bar in Upper Regent Street, London. He bought his first hotel — The Waldorf — in 1958, and took Forte public in 1962, laying the foundations for three decades of spectacular growth.

Sir Rocco has only recently begun to stamp his authority on a company which was inextricably linked with his father for so long. He and his wife, Alia, have three children. Mrs Polizzi, the eldest of Lord Forte's five daughters, is responsible for decor and design at the Forte hotels.



Lord Forte at the The Waldorf after a refurbishment costing £12.5 million must wonder what has hit the company



Sir Rocco, Alia, his wife, Olga Polizzi, his sister, and Lady Forte are under the glare of publicity after the bid

Savoy Hotel among the prizes

THE PICK OF THE FORTE CROP

VICTORY for Granada will bring a fascinating range of hotels into its clutches — and what would happen to them is proving a source of lively debate (Jon Ashworth writes).

The prizes include: the Savoy Hotel. Top of the so-called "trophy" hotels, it has 154 rooms and 48 suites. Permanent residents include Richard Harris, Kerry Packer and Luciano Pavarotti favour its charms. It has been awarded five red stars by the Automobile Association (AA) — the

highest five-star rating available. Single rooms start at £180 a night; doubles from £245. The two-bed river suite costs £905 a night.

The Waldorf is Forte's first big catch. Acquired in 1958, it is known for its Sean Connery-lookalike doorman. It has 292 rooms. Single rooms start at £165; doubles at £185. It features the Palm Court, famed for its tea dances.

The Hyde Park Hotel is over the road from Harvey Nichols and is also the holder of five red stars. The 186 rooms include 19 suites. The hotel is home to Marco Pierre White's restaurant, known as The Restaurant. Singles are at £205; doubles at £240.

The Grosvenor House is the sprawling colossus on Park Lane, usually associated with turgid 1,500-strong dinners in the Great Room. It has 454 bedrooms and suites; 140 apartments. Single rooms are at £200; doubles at £225.

Le Méridien Piccadilly is ideal for West End shopping sprees. It has 266 rooms and the lure of a Champneys health club. Singles are at £215; doubles at £230.

Hotel Plaza Athénée, New York, is the fashionable retreat on Manhattan's Upper

East Side. Its 153 rooms, including two penthouses and 36 suites, start at £288. It also offers the popular Le Régent restaurant.

Hotel George V has been a landmark in Paris since the 1930s. It offers 260 rooms, including 19 suites, six de luxe suites, and one presidential suite. Conference facilities are available for up to 900, with the latest high-tech gadgets. Rooms start at £200.

The Ritz, Madrid, is situated near Rediro Park and faces the Prado museum. Its 156 bedrooms and 26 suites sport embroidered linen sheets and handwoven carpets. Weekend leisure breaks start at £330 per two nights, based on two people sharing. Further nights from £166.

Le Méridien Paradise Cove, Mauritius, has been relaunched after a £1 million refit. It is set in ten acres in secluded cove with access to small private beaches. There are 64 bedrooms. Singles start at £210; doubles at £317.

Le Méridien Paradise Cove, Mauritius, has been relaunched after a £1 million refit. It is set in ten acres in secluded cove with access to small private beaches. There are 64 bedrooms. Singles start at £210; doubles at £317.

MAM team prepares for pivotal role in bid battle

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

ONCE AGAIN, Mercury Asset Management finds itself playing a pivotal role in a multi-billion pound hostile takeover bid.

As the holder of a 12.5 per cent stake in Forte and a 14.8 per cent stake in Granada, the way that MAM decides to vote on Granada's surprise £3.4 billion offer for Britain's largest hotels group will influence the rest of the City, whether MAM likes it or not.

MAM has established a team of half a dozen people to evaluate the bid, to talk to both sides and to decide which way to vote. The team includes fund managers with holdings in Forte and Granada, as well as sector specialists. Carol Galley, MAM joint vice-chairman and dubbed the City's most powerful woman, will be charged with approving the decision and informing the two sides which one has MAM's support.

This is a role that Ms Galley is growing used to. Earlier this year, she played a powerful role in the bid by Richemont, the Swiss holding company, for Rodmans, in which MAM held a 10 per cent stake, and 25 per cent of the minority holding.

Ms Galley also held the key to Granada's hostile £725 million bid for London Weekend Television last year. With 15 per cent of LWT, MAM's decision was crucial. MAM backed Granada, in the belief that it was offering a premium for LWT shares that it could not envisage LWT achieving by itself over the next five years. Granada won LWT.

MAM has seen the potential in Forte for years. Its hotel assets are among the most valuable in Europe. The fund manager has spent the past 20 years building up its 12.5 per

cent Forte stake. A spokesman said: "We have been long-time holders of Forte because we have seen it as offering good long-term value."

Forte's attraction to MAM has been as much in the perceived value of its property portfolio as its management strategy and vision.

MAM became drawn to Granada with the arrival of Gerry Robinson in 1991. Since then, he has been behind an aggressive expansion policy that has won him admirers in the City.

At yesterday's prices, Granada's offer — four of its shares and £23.25 in cash for every 15 Forte shares — valued Forte shares at 329p each, valuing MAM's stake at £399.3 million, way over its £325.4 million worth on Tuesday night, the day before the bid was unveiled.

MAM is not an index manager. A spokesman said: "The nature of our fund management is that we back our judgment." If MAM likes a share, it continues to buy it. It

holds about 4 per cent of the UK equity market, and its UK equity portfolio is worth an estimated £40 billion.

However, it does not buy shares simply to ensure that it has sufficient weighting in a sector. Of the UK FT-SE companies that it does like, a typical stake could be anything from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. If it does not like a company, it will not buy the shares.

The spokesman said: "It is not as though we are sitting around buying big stakes in companies because we think they are going to be taken over. We buy because a company represents good value. If someone else sees that value and makes an offer, all well and good."

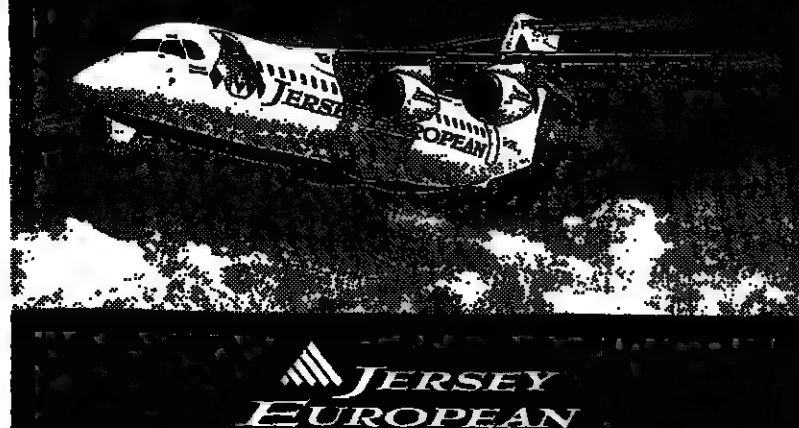
MAM must now decide whether Granada's bid offers full value. If so, as a significant holder of Granada shares, it must also decide whether Mr Robinson's credentials as a hotelier are sufficient to lead a successful integration of the two businesses, or whether, as the Forte camp will undoubtedly argue, he has, in his enthusiasm to do a big deal, picked the wrong target.



Galley: big decision

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Who's who at the 'canteen'

CITY tycoons regard the Savoy Grill as their personal "canteen", and any threat to its future is a matter of grave concern. The regulars return again and again — Professor Sir Roland Smith dining by the wall; Sir David English holding court at table 31 (Jon Ashworth writes).

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare goes for the bangers and mash. Attempts to introduce a Jeffrey Archer vegetarian sausage on to the menu met with dismal failure. Sir Denis Thatcher likes haddock and fish cakes — but not at the same time — and always sits at table 34. Richard Harris loves the food, but his aversion to jacket and tie has caused problems. Angelo Maresca, the restaurant manager, has been known to put a screen round his table.

SAVOY GRILL

The Grill has long proved a magnet to City "spin-doctors" including Sir Tim Bell and Brian Basham, who enjoy being seen in the company of newspaper editors and proprietors. Sir Winston Churchill sat by the fire escape at table 4 — still one of the most requested spots. Lord King sits at table 33. Lord Hanson dines here occasionally.

Maria Callas and Noel Coward frequented the Grill in a bygone era; as did the Queen Mother. Tony Carmo, the head sommelier, once emptied a Bloody Mary down Sophia Loren's cleavage, claiming to have been startled by a mouse. Current regulars include Sean Connery, Sir John Egan, Kerry Packer, Sir Patrick Sheehy and Sir Richard Attenborough.

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Storehouse squeezes more profit from sales

BY SARAH BAGNALL

STOREHOUSE, the Mothercare and Bhs retail group, squeezed more profit out of sales made in the 28 weeks to October 14.

Pre-tax profits climbed 42 per cent to £34.5 million in spite of a slight fall in sales from £519.2 million to £518.8 million. The marked advance in performance was reflected in a near two-point surge in gross margin, helped by improved fortunes from Mothercare. Bhs and Blazer together with continued tight control on costs.

The shares rose 10p to 322p as analysts upgraded their full-year profit forecasts.

Keith Edelman, Storehouse chief executive, said he was "cautiously optimistic" about

the group's full-year prospects, and emphasised that the outcome depended largely on the crucial Christmas trading. He said sales had been slow in October but had started to pick up. Overall, he expected stronger sales growth in the second half.

Mothercare had a "very successful first half, with equipment and babyware leading the way", Mr Edelman said. The business lifted operating profits by 120 per cent to £9.3 million on the back of stronger sales, up six per cent at £164.9 million. Stripping out the impact of new space, like-for-like sales advanced two per cent.

Mothercare's gross margin rose 3.1 points, an achievement he said that was unlikely to be repeated in the second half.

Mr Edelman said Bhs sales failed to meet expectations, falling 3 per cent to £346.6 million. Sales were hit by the weather, a less-generous discount offered to holders of the group's Choice loyalty card, and the loss of sales resulting from the disposal earlier this year of One Up, the low-priced clothing and homewares chain.

In spite of the decline in sales, Bhs managed to lift profits by 10 per cent to £20.8 million. Bhs lifted gross margin by 1.5 points, reflecting the sale of One Up, which removed lower margin sales from the figures, reduced markdowns, and the tougher conditions on the loyalty card.

Mr Edelman said Bhs's best-performing divisions were womenswear and lingerie while sales of lighting and childrenswear fell.

The dividend was lifted 11 per cent from 2.7p to 3p and Mr Edelman said the increase was less than the growth in earnings per share, reflecting the group's desire to change the split between the interim and final payments.

The dividend, due February 8, is being paid out of earnings of 5.6p a share, up from 3.9p last time.

Mothercare's refurbishment programme was progressing, Mr Edelman said. By next April, more than 60 per cent of trading space would have been refurbished. During the second half, Storehouse plans to open seven new Bhs stores and three Mothercare stores.

Microsoft sells stake in Dorling

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

MICROSOFT Corporation, Bill Gates's US software company, has sold its entire 17.9 per cent stake in Dorling Kindersley, the publisher of books and CD-Roms.

The shares were placed yesterday, at 507p each, with UK and continental European investors by Goldman Sachs, which acted as lead manager and book runner for the offering, and Cazenove, the co-lead manager. Dorling Kindersley shares added 23p to 527p.

Microsoft said earlier this month that it intended to sell up to 12.08 million shares, depending on demand, price and market conditions.

Microsoft became a 26 per cent shareholder in the publisher after investing £8 million in March 1991, when the two companies began a trading relationship, but Microsoft saw its stake diluted to 17.9 per cent after Dorling Kindersley's flotation in October 1992.

Microsoft's original £8 million investment has grown more than sevenfold, with the stake worth about £61.3 million at the 507p a share placing price.

Tempos, page 28



Right spirit: Geoffrey Maddrell, left, and Peter Darbyshire, managing director, saw profits improve 52 per cent

Strategy starts to pay off as distiller soars

BY MARTIN BARROW

MACDONALD MARTIN Distilleries, the Glenmorangie single malt whisky company, achieved a 52 per cent rise in profits at the halfway stage as the benefits of a strategic plan implemented by Geoffrey Maddrell, the new chief executive, began to materialise.

In the half-year to September 30, pre-tax profits rose to £4.02 million from £2.63 million.

The advance was assisted by a £500,000 exceptional net property gain and the absence of last year's £440,000 termination payments and joint venture costs, but underlying profits were up 15 per cent in a difficult market.

Turnover increased 10 per cent to £18.1 million and the operating margin improved to 22.7 per cent from 21.6 per cent because of tight control of costs. Total case sales were up 8 per cent in volume but bulk blend sales were down by half, affected by the change of US distributor and

by a decision not to renew a contract in South Africa.

Progress was made in the development of Glenmorangie as an international brand, with a further 4 per cent increase in sales and a 10 per cent increase in profitability. Shipments to America, Germany, Italy and The Netherlands were healthy, although trading in France and Japan was affected by competition.

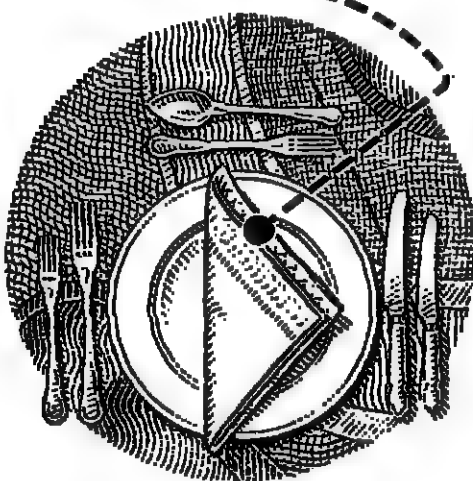
The company's Highland Queen brand is now established as one of India's best sellers.

Macdonald Martin is negotiating with authorities in China to establish a foothold for its brands, after extensive market research.

Benefiting from a change in the tax treatment of depreciation on distillery assets, earnings rose 64 per cent to 20.93p per A share and to 10.46p per B share. Dividends are increased 10 per cent to 2.75p per A share and to 1.375p per B share.

Improving business performance. A few helpful ideas from Mercury.

A business lunch.



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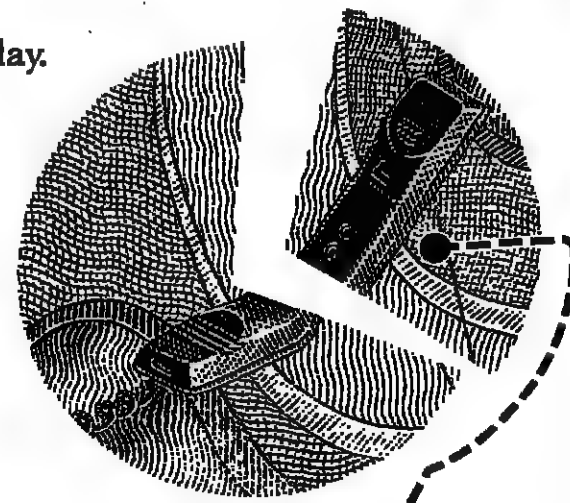
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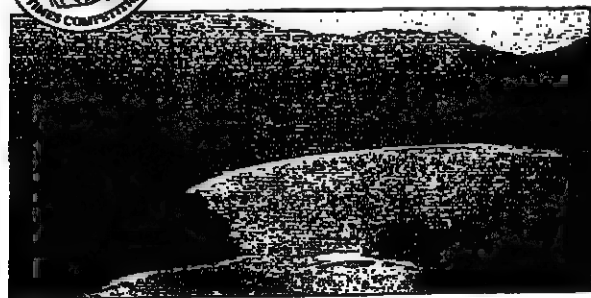
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Perched on a hillside, blending into a backdrop of tropical forest and with the islands of southern Thailand visible offshore, the Datar makes skilful use of local stone and timber and it has all the facilities of a modern, luxury hotel.

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Nº2.

Shares in Powell Duffryn hit after unexpected loss

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Powell Duffryn, the port services and fuel distribution company, fell 60p to 499p yesterday after it disclosed an unexpected first-half loss, beset by hefty exceptional charges.

The company is holding the interim dividend at 8p a share after incurring losses of £13 million before tax for the six months to September 30. These losses were struck after net exceptional charges of almost £30 million and compared with profits of £17 million previously. Losses were 18.5p a share, compared with earnings of 17.9p.

The charges comprised the settlement of a long-running German lawsuit for £13 million; net losses of £10 million after a fire at a storage terminal in Savannah, Georgia; and the write-off of goodwill at Metalair-Filliat, a manufacturer of bulk powder tankers, which has suffered depressed and competitive market conditions.

At the operating level, there was an increase in profits to £30.4 million, from £14.7 million. David Hubbard, the chairman, said that the company had managed "a sound performance in subdued markets".

The downturn was evident in the oil and gas distribution business, which were affected by mild weather and adverse fuel prices, and bulk liquid storage in America, which also suffered disruption because of the Savannah fire.

On the positive side, Mr

Hubbard said that the ports businesses were trading well, while Hamworthy Combustion, which operates in the marine and industrial sectors, enjoyed an improvement in demand in mainland Europe and export markets.

Group turnover advanced to £435.1 million, from £353.9 million, partly reflecting the consolidation of Teesside Holdings and Humberside Holdings, which were formerly partly-owned associated companies.

Last December, Powell Duffryn paid £82.3 million to acquire the minority interests in Teesside, owner of the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority, and Humberside, which provides port services on the east coast.

This was part-funded from the proceeds of a £70.7 million rights issue, with new shares offered at 440p.

During the year, the company also acquired Bellis & Morcom from Rolls-Royce Power Engineering for £14.4 million.

Mr Hubbard said: "Profits for the second half are tempered as always by the unpredictable effect of the winter on our oil and gas distribution activities, where automotive fuel margins are also under intense pressure."

"That apart, there is no reason to believe at this stage that the year will not see another sound trading outcome for the group."

The unchanged dividend will be paid January 9.



David Hubbard, the chairman, said the port businesses were trading well

Energis looks for partners

By ERIC REGULY

ENERGIS, the loss-making telecommunications company owned by the National Grid, is looking for partners in an attempt to reverse its fortunes.

The prospectus of the Grid, which is scheduled for a £3.8 billion flotation next month, stated that Energis is not living up to expectations and should be made part of a larger group.

It said: "Its business is developing more slowly than envisaged. Energis is evaluating the opportunities to strengthen its position through equity partnerships, joint ventures or other forms of strategic alliance."

Launched in 1984, Energis built a national trunk network at minimum cost by stringing 4,000 kms of high-capacity fibre-optic cables under existing electricity pylons.

The system was the most modern in the country but there was difficulty finding customers in a market where telecoms capacity has become a fairly inexpensive commodity. Capacity can also be bought on the networks operated by BT, Mercury Communications and British Rail Telecom. British Rail's private phone network.

Energis lost £53 million in the year to March 31, on top of the £13 million it lost last year, and another £40 million in the six months to the end of September.

Gordon Owen, chairman of Energis, has held talks with potential partners including AT&T, America's largest international phone company, that were unsuccessful. He has also explored the possibility of forging links with the cable companies, which hope to set up a national phone system in competition with BT. No deal with any potential partner is thought to be imminent.

Energis intends to offer new services in an attempt to put more traffic on to its wires. One idea is to offer a videotelephony service to its customers — among them the BBC and Hertz — next year. Personal computers would be used as the phones' video terminals.

Energis is negotiating with PC suppliers in an effort to get the system going.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Ferry Pickering agrees Wace bid

WACE GROUP, the specialist print and electronic imaging group, has emerged as the bidder for Ferry Pickering, a supplier of specialist packaging and folding cartons. The companies yesterday announced the terms of a recommended bid by Wace Group valuing Ferry Pickering at £26.2 million. Investors in Ferry Pickering are being offered 195p a share in cash, representing a 45.5 per cent premium over the share price on November 17, when bid discussions between the two companies were first disclosed.

In 1994, Ferry Pickering earned operating profits of £1.9 million on turnover of £25.6 million. Interim operating profits, for the half-year to the end of June, were £900,000 on turnover of £13.2 million. At June 30, net assets were £4.9 million. Wace also announced yesterday the acquisition of the trade, assets and goodwill of Hallmark's greeting cards manufacturing facility near Dublin for £6.5 million. The business, which employs 220 people, earned profits before tax of £300,000.

Peptide float price set

A FLOTATION price tag of 200p per share has been put on Peptide Therapeutics, the company announced yesterday. The price values the biopharmaceutical development group at £68 million when share dealing begins on November 30. Dr Brian Richards, chairman, said the board was delighted with the response from institutional investors to the flotation. He added: "Demand has exceeded expectations and the funds raised will play an important role in accelerating a number of exciting product development programmes currently under way."

Regent issues warning

REGENT CORPORATION has given warning that it would build half the number of houses this year than in the previous 12 months. It said it would come as no surprise to shareholders to learn that its performance in the six months to the end of September had been well below directors' expectations. The group plans to build 34 houses in the year to March 31, compared with 66 in the previous 12 months. It also said that it was unlikely to pay a dividend, but to boost its finances, the company, based in Sutton, Surrey, is planning to raise £1.54 million through placing and offer. The shares fell 2p to 5p.

France holds key rates

THE Bank of France held its key rates unchanged yesterday after a meeting of its independent monetary policy council. The bank held its repurchase rate at 6.10 per cent, the tender rate at 4.80 per cent and the overnight rate at 5.37 per cent. Last Thursday, the Bank of France eased its tender rate by 0.20 points to 4.80 per cent and its repurchase rate by 0.25 points to 6.10 per cent. Most analysts had expected the Bank of France to maintain its key rates but said that rates would probably fall within the next few weeks because European economies were slowing down.

Iraq plans oil exports

MUHAMMAD RASHID, Iraq's oil minister, said he expected to resume oil sales next year in a "responsible" manner and could immediately produce 2.5 million barrels a day, exporting 2 million barrels. He said other Opec ministers, who met this week to determine next year's production ceiling, had given him no reason to think Iraq could not get back into the market smoothly. Mr Rashid accused the US Administration of finding repeated excuses to keep Iraq from selling its oil. Iraq has been barred from oil sales since it invaded Kuwait, an Opec member, in 1990.

Abacus and Polar link

ABACUS and Polar, the electronic components companies, have agreed to join forces to create a new group with annual sales of about £100 million. Abacus has offered £35.9 million, on the basis of 443p a share. Polar's shares rose 49p to 427p while Abacus advanced 1p to 279p. Directors of Polar have given irrevocable undertakings to accept the offer in respect of their 46.5 per cent holding. Abacus also reported that it made £6.6 million pre-tax in the year to September 30, compared with £4.2 million in the previous 12 months. The dividend total is increased from 4p to 4.8p.

Institutions get tough on polluters

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

COMPANIES which consistently break environmental regulations will be boycotted for investment by many of the world's largest insurers, following an agreement in Geneva yesterday.

Swiss Re, the reinsurer, General Accident, the insurer, National Provident Institution, the pensions manager, Sumitomo, the Japanese marine and fire-insurance company, and ten other insurers said they would refuse to invest in companies which regularly polluted rivers or land.

The statement of environmental

commitment, signed by all 14 companies at the United Nations headquarters, reflects growing public concern that consistent polluters should be punished.

There has been a huge increase in demand for ethical funds which invest only in companies with "green" credentials. Big reinsurers have already hinted that they would like pollution cover stripped out of general commercial insurance policies.

John Fisher, head of corporate communications at NPI, said criteria for boycotting companies would not

be as strict as for ethical funds, but "if we had to choose between a company which was regularly fined for breaches of environmental law and one which behaved itself, we would choose the latter. This makes financial sense, as well because consistent offenders are often badly-run companies."

Lord Rennant, NPI's chairman, said in Geneva that NPI's environmental research group regularly fed information to the rest of NPI's investment team. "We are therefore benefiting from early warning signals and our investment managers can

adjust their investment portfolios accordingly, although their decisions have to be based on what is driving the market."

Hans Alders, European director of the UN Environment Programme, said: "Insurers know that a few major disasters caused by extreme climate events or toxic-waste spills could literally bankrupt the industry in the next decade."

He said all insurance companies with an environmental policy in place, or in the process of preparing one, were eligible to become signatories.

Low rates force investors into high-risk markets

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

INVESTORS have returned to higher-risk markets, prompted by the low level of interest rates in leading countries around the world.

According to a report published today by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), based in Basle, such activity encouraged "a wide variety of borrowers to raise a record volume of funds through the international securities markets".

But it also found that the Mexican crisis was still fresh in the minds of international investors, which meant that "awareness of credit risk remained acute".

As a result, more risky borrowers were charged high premiums and investors paid more attention to other aspects of the financing equation such as the type of securities purchased, their maturity structure and the quality of their collateral backing.

The report, International Banking and Financial Mar-

ket Developments, showed that Euro-notes accounted for 56 per cent of net financing conducted through the international securities markets, reflecting advantages "such as their flexibility and the cost savings associated with issuance under single documentation".

The amount of international banking activity picked up, with a high proportion of syndicated loans serving to refinance earlier loans or to finance mergers and acquisitions.

In spite of concerns raised by international banking regulators, lending margins continued to slip, particularly for "prime borrowers".

The report shows that borrowers in America were particularly active, accounting for almost half of the total lending in the international banking market.

It also shows that financing terms offered to borrowers from eastern Europe and Asia eased.

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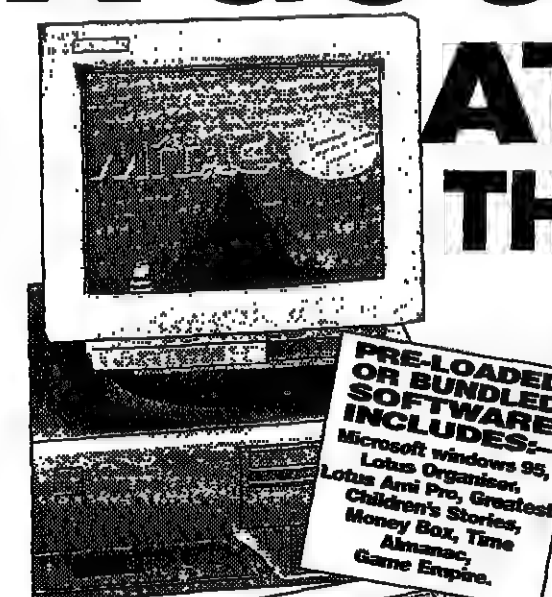
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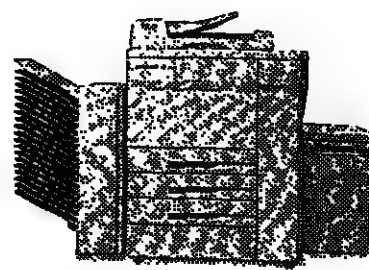
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■ OPERA
Plenty of blast from the brass, but ENO's *Turandot* misses the subtler points



■ THEATRE 1
O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms* is played for melodrama in a new staging at the Tricycle

THE TIMES ARTS



■ THEATRE 2
A traumatic era of evil is powerfully evoked in Julia Pascal's *Holocaust Trilogy*



■ TOMORROW
Reviews of *The Madness of King George* and all the other new videos and CDs

What are you on about?



Sound and fury: Sophia Larson makes her ill-fated British debut in Christopher Alden's disappointing production of *Turandot* for ENO

At times one was reminded of Ernest Thesiger's legendary summing-up of the First World War as he sat pulse-tipped with disapproval at his needlework — "My dear, the people, and the noise". With Puccini's stage brass placed in the right-hand circle box at the Coliseum, the barrage of sound unleashed at the final curtain of each act was overwhelming, especially when full organ was added at the end of the second and a huge stage-gong in the first. The audience was stunned into submission.

Puccini was probably aiming a little higher than at beating audiences senseless with sound, but that seemed to be the level at which ENO's first and generally disappointing attempt at *Turandot* was operating. The conductor David Atherton, so coolly expert at sorting out the textures of abstract contemporary music, went for a generally lush, sumptuous, late-Romantic sound, which may have worked in nice counterpoint to the sadistic creepiness of the

OPERA: All but incomprehensible in places, ENO's singing falls on Rodney Milnes's deafened ears

subject matter. But too much of the detail and sharp colour of one of the great 20th-century scores was lost in the process. The standard of ensemble was surprisingly lax — too often the music simply was not together enough.

And Atherton appeared not to be interested in balance. The orchestra was often headlessly loud, which cancelled out one of the main come-ons of the whole enterprise — William Radice's new translation. Untamed woodwind, for instance, frequently covered the Masks' Trio in the second act. But that is not the whole story: the evening demonstrated clearly changes in singing style over the years, changes that put the future of ENO in the balance.

Janice Watson is a lovely singer, and shaped Li's music throughout with touching eloquence, floating her high notes with great delicacy. But I heard scarcely a word

Turandot Coliseum

the whole evening. Even those few — depressingly few — singers who did sing words sang them mechanically, without apparently thinking about what they meant.

The whole game was given away with the appearance of John Fryatt as the Emperor Altoum. Fryatt came to the Coliseum with the company from Sadler's Wells more than 25 years ago, when the standard of diction was immeasurably higher and there was some point to singing in English. Here, often on a thread of sound, he made every single word tell, he was thinking them, and for a brief moment *Turandot* sprang into life as living drama rather than just noise.

Who is in charge of text at the Coliseum? Is there nobody

to tell conductors and indeed directors (here singers were put onstage, and at times made to sing onstage too) that not a word is getting across and everyone is wasting their time, and the audience's money (not to mention the taxpayers'?)

The problem was compounded by the casting of the Viennese soprano Sophia Larson in the title role, and whoever engaged her should be considering their position. More than ever you admired Calaf for answering her riddles, as he certainly could not have understood the questions. Larson delivered at a steady forte-to-fortissimo (look at the score, dear) with dubious intonation and coarse, unimaginative phrasing. An ill-advised British debut.

Edmund Barham sang Calaf with ideal robustness and variety of dynamic (good

THEATRE: Poor melodrama; reminder of real-life horror

I imagine you are a set designer working on a tight budget for a small touring company. You open page one of Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms* and find you must create two elms that brood with "crushing jealous absorption" over a farmhouse. More they must resemble "exhausted women resting their sagging breasts and hands and hair on its roof, and, when it rains, their tears trickle down monotonously and rot on the shingles". Well, how would you cope?

Perhaps in the way Neil Warrington does for Shared Experience. He has allowed one slim, maidenly tree to weave through, up and over bits of evocative black-brown timber. It is a sensible solution, but also a symptom of what is to happen below. Polly Teale's cast gives us half a tragedy — and what is a half-tragedy but a whole melodrama?

Some may object that *Desire* is pretty melodramatic anyway. The play concerns tyrannical old Ephraim, who

Casting a pale shadow

Desire Under the Elms Tricycle

weds young Abbie, who in turn falls for his son by an earlier marriage, Eben. Result: illicit passion, a love-child the besotted cuckold declares will inherit the farm, misunderstandings, quarrels, murder. If Euripides were the author, we would doubtless feel that the characters were determining the ferocity of the plot. With O'Neill in control, it tends to be vice-versa. But, as often with his work, the intensity and self-belief of

the actors can lift melodrama into something you buy as tragic at the time. That this is unlikely to occur at the Tricycle is evident from the entrance of Ephraim and Abbie. Such is the build-up the other characters give him that you expect the patriarch to stalk in with ten tablets from Mount Sinai in one palm and his bride in the other. Sour looks and a vinegar voice are not enough, and they are, on the whole, what Robin Thomson gives us.

Gabrielle Reidy's Abbie has her moments with Jonathan Cullen's brooding Eben: but they have as much to do with evocative music and stage magic (arms intuitively reaching from her in the bedroom to him in the scullery) as with genuinely passionate acting. Something is happening beneath that flimsy tree, but it isn't loathing, fury or the irresistible pull of incestuous love. It is more brittle and minor.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

The ghosts of Auschwitz

Down the road, at the Freud Museum, the exhibits include a photograph of Nazis making Jews scrub the streets of Vienna in 1938. The faces do not reveal the feelings of the kneeling men, nor of the onlookers.

Theresa, the first of Julia Pascal's three plays, which opens with just such a scene, fills in those missing feelings, although the approach is roundabout. Theresa Steiner, a former professor of music at the Conservatoire, recalls the taste of the pastries in a coffee house overlooking the street, and only gradually does her memory move towards the truly central event. Ruth Posner speaks English but Thomas Kampe, as Theresa's son, overlaps her words with the same in German, a disorienting technique that both distances the material and makes its reality more urgent. Theresa escapes to England

The Holocaust Trilogy New End

and finds work as a nanny, but, when war breaks out, her employer takes the baffling decision to remove her children and Theresa to the supposed safety of the Channel Islands. After the German invasion, Theresa is bundled off to Auschwitz. Unsurprisingly, the drama has not been invited to play on Guernsey.

The second and weakest of the plays, *A Dead Woman on Holiday*, is set during the Nuremberg trials, where a French Jewess (Claire Marchionne, hauntingly still) is one of the simultaneous translators. She has an intense affair with an American and is destroyed by having to listen to the evidence of so much atrocity. But Pascal's inclina-

tion to create scenes of only marginal connection to her theme is most noticeable here.

In *The Dybbuk*, Pascal imagines this famous Jewish drama of soul-invasion being performed in an unnamed Eastern European ghetto in 1942. She further places it within the frame of a woman of today mourning "the lost cousins, uncles and aunts who I want to have known". Sensing their presence within her, the statement "I have so many dybbuks" resonantly binds her to the old play.

Pascal directs this and the first play (Jon Harris directs the middle one), making imaginative use of the ghetto props, with the ladders eventually representing the railway track that will carry the victims to the gas chamber. The action is not always easy to interpret, but this final scene will prove hard to forget.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Pat looking at a CD case, Mark drumming fingers on the desk, singing choruses badly. **EMF HAVE BLOWN IT NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?** Who's that? **EMF.** It's difficult to see... I MEAN THAT **COMEBACK SINGLE JUST DIDN'T HAPPEN DID IT.** Hang on, there was the Vic and Bob thing got to number three. **YEAR** Mark selects trail cartridge, looks at clock **BUT THAT WAS MORE VIC AND BOB TEAR THEM.**

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The high and the mighty

THE risk a singer takes of being outstaged by his or her accompanist is greatly increased when the latter is Melvyn Tan. Not only is his keyboard prowess formidable, but he interprets with every fibre of his lithe body, inevitably drawing as much attention to himself as to the singer. The risk was worth it, though, for the American-based counter-

Asawa/Tan Wigmore Hall

tenor Brian Asawa, whose Wigmore Hall recital on Tuesday night was immeasurably enhanced by Tan's fortepiano.

Asawa's tonal production has the warm-blooded, vibrant timbre of his compatriots. He has made his mark, too, on the operatic circuit, giving him a naturally theatrical quality that came through well in Cherubino's aria *Voi che sapete* from *Le nozze di Figaro*, infused with adolescent passion, and in *Perche tener dritto?* from Mozart's *Ascanio in Alba*, carried off in virtuoso style.

In a group of Schubert Lieder, Asawa conjured an evocative sunset glow in *Im Abendrot*. *Litanei* was characterised by elegant turns and neatly tapered phrases. Two faster songs, *Fischerweise* and *Der Schiffer*, both went with a swing, animated splendidly by Tan.

In stylishly sung groups by Purcell and Alessandro Scarlatti, the tone for each song was set impeccably by Tan, especially the humour of the former's *Man Is for the Woman Made* and the plaintive grief of the latter's *Son tutta duolo*.

Encounter, a cycle of three songs by Jake Heggie, written for Asawa, amusingly explored "what it is like to grow up in the United States as a counter-tenor". John Hall's lyrics wittily evoke people's "imagined memories of altered males", although Heggie's settings do so more successfully in his keyboard accompaniments. A nice conceit and engagingly delivered.

Tan provided two keyboard-only interludes with a pair of Schubert Impromptus. The cascading arpeggios of No 4 in A Flat, D899, were tossed off too fast for their own good. The variations of No 3 in B Flat, D935, however, found the perfect balance between spontaneity and a discreet self-consciousness.

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POP 2

Floaty, dreamy... and amazingly wealthy: the beguiling Enya tells us how she does it



POP 3

What a shame that the fine debut album of McAlmont and Butler should be their swansong

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 4

Some 83 of the biggest names in the biz take part in Quincy Jones's latest musical odyssey



POP 5

Georgie Fame at Ronnie Scott's still intent on finding the meaning of life beyond Yeh Yeh

You can't hurry loveliness

In the HMV megastore on London's Oxford Street this week, the usual hundreds of young record buyers browsed through the racks a little more calmly than usual, the air around them thick with the rich, velvet sounds of the in-house DJ's surprising choice, a new album called *The Memory of Trees*.

Earlier, in the *Top of the Pops* studio, the album's maker had found herself a chart presence alongside such disparate fellow musicians as gangsta rapper Coolio and the boys from Blur and Oasis. Cold logic would have it that Enya, whose impressionistic songs are often instrumental or sung in foreign tongues, should not be a pop star. But she is.

Her 1988 debut album *Watermark* has now sold eight million copies; *Shepherd Moons*, its 1991 follow-up, has sold nine million. These achievements confirm her fluency in what Van Morrison once termed "the inarticulate speech of the heart".

Enya herself appears distanced from all the fuss. "The music is what sells, not me, or what I stand for," she says. "And that's the way I've always wanted it, because I'm extremely private by nature. Many people would have you believe it's impossible to have all this success and not be known publicly. So far, though, we've proved them wrong."

Her use of the plural is a reference to the two other members of a trinity that exists behind what has virtually become a brand name. Since 1982 the singer and musician, now 34, has worked closely with producer Nicky Ryan and his wife Rona, the

Alan Jackson talks to the painstaking Enya, a legend in her own overtime

lyricist for those tracks that are non-instrumental.

Few artists manage — or choose — to combine high sales with a low profile, but those who do can find their careers operating at a level beyond fad or fashion. The public knows little about Enya, beyond the fact that she comes from Donegal, now lives in Dublin, and was briefly a member of the family group Clannad. Such virtual anonymity offers another benefit — because almost no ego intrudes on her records, audiences can exercise their own imaginations when listening to them. "I find it incredible that a song which, to me, is quite specific in its meaning can inspire such different images and emotions in others," she says.

"They're delving into the very strong feelings the three of us have invested within the music and, regardless of what we tell them it's about, they're finding something personal in it. It's wonderful to hear of, but is something we can have no control over or awareness of when we're recording."

This can be a slow, at times even painful process. For the past two-and-a-half years she has worked six or seven-day weeks in her own studio, composing and recording without the distracting pres-

ence of engineers, staff or outside musicians. "And this is what I have achieved," she smiles, gesturing at the 11 titles on *The Memory of Trees*.

It can take weeks, even months of playing on piano or synthesizer to build up a song, she says. "Sometimes I think I've written my last, because it takes so long for the next one to form itself. Even a chord has to be special before I want to use it. And then I have to work and wait until it leads to something else. But once you have the bones of a good melody, you can begin to enhance it with sound and lyrics..."

This, she does not need to emphasise, is another slow process. Complementing her own background as a classically trained pianist is Ryan's love for the wall-of-sound techniques pioneered by Phil Spector and the Beach Boys. Lead vocals or harmonies may be built up from scores or even hundreds of over-layered parts.

This is not something that can be rushed, as Rob Dickers, of Enya's record company, appreciates only too well. It was he who signed Enya to the label after hearing the original music she and the Ryans had composed for a six-part BBC TV series, *The Celts*, in the mid-1980s. At the time, New Age music — the category Enya is most often placed in by US radio programmers — had no proven commercial appeal. Now the adjective "Enya-esque" has all but replaced New Age.

She insists, though, that hers is still an essentially Irish music, informed by the geography, myth and melancholy of Donegal. Not that she will spend much time in Ireland over the coming year. The



"Sometimes I think I've written my last song, because it takes so long for the next one to form itself," Enya says. "Even a chord has to be special before I want to use it"

worldwide promotion of her new LP will take up all of 1996. Then, after a rest, she and Ryan will cloister themselves in the studio again, to begin the inch-by-inch progress towards her next album.

There have been, she says, "wonderful" offers to score films, but the investment of time would be too great. Similarly, although she is intrigued by the possibility of playing live, she worries about

the effect it would have on her writing and recording schedule. "Everything I feel goes into the music," she says. "There's nothing more anyone could know that they can't already hear."

To non-believers, such a statement may be meaningless, but to everyone else it makes total, perfect sense.

© *The Memory of Trees* and the single *Anywhere* is available now on WEA

Leaving a good-looking corpus

McALMONT & BUTLER

The Sound of McAlmont & Butler (Hut/Virgin HUT32) GIVEN the chequered careers and volatile natures of singer David McAlmont and former Suede guitarist Bernard Butler, their demise as a duo is hardly surprising. But what a shame that a debut album of such abundant promise as this should also turn out to be their swansong.

"Have you forgot whatever it was that you couldn't stand about me?" McAlmont sings in his sweet, supple falsetto on the duo's sensational first single. Yes, to which Butler's unspoken reply would presumably be a curt "No".

But whatever the personal differences, theirs was a musical marriage made in heaven, and this mid-price collection of everything they recorded together — 11 tracks, only one of

NEW ALBUMS

which was previously unissued as either a single or B-side — is a sparkling cocktail of symphonic soul and spiky rock that makes most of the year's other debut albums sound hidebound.

There are echoes of Prince's mischievous, genre-bending style on the stinky knockabout of *What's the Excuse this*

Time, while the sinister yet sensual drift of *The Right Thing* recalls Butler's best work with Suede. *Don't Call it Soul*, a song which manages to sound simultaneously delicate and deranged, is something else again, and the monumental climax to the seven-minute-long *You Do* provides a fitting end both to the album and to a relationship that shook so hard that perhaps it had to shatter.

JAH WOBBLE

Heaven & Earth (Island 524 168) TO ADAPT Samuel Johnson, when a man is tired of Wobble, he is tired of the world, or at least tired of hearing exotic shades of world music glued together by the undulating ebb and flow of Wobble's implacable post-reggae bass lines.

Although *Heaven & Earth* is rather less of a multicultural madhouse than last year's *Take Me to God*, Wobble shows no signs of weariness or of losing his finely tuned ear for unusual combinations that will work.

An instrumental album apart from two tracks, *Heaven & Earth* opens with a discourse between bamboo flute, African drums and what sounds like a Chinese banjo on the title track. More conventional but no less evocative is *Gone to Croatia*, featuring the eloquent soprano sax and flute of Pharoah Sanders.

Mystical in mood, but rhythmically anchored in the here and now, it is an imaginative album of unusual poise and a lazy, natural grace.

THE BEATLES

Anthology 1 (Apple/EMI 8 3445; 2 CDs) AFTER the intoxicating hype surrounding the opening track, *Free as a Bird*, comes the sobering reality of a two-hour dig through another raft of substandard recordings and snippets of speech, similar in content and presentation to last year's immensely successful *Live at the BBC*.

Some of it is virtually unlistenable, and most superfluous to the great body of Beatles work that already exists. But rock archivists and Beatles completists will spend hours poring over the scrupulously annotated sleeve notes and pondering the dubious merits of the numerous rare demos, alternative takes and live recordings retrieved from some very dusty vaults.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Robson & Jerome (RCA)
- 2 (What's the Story) Morning Glory? (Creation)
- 3 Anthology 1 (Beatles (Apple)
- 4 Made in Heaven (Queen (Parlophone)
- 5 Something to Remember (Madonna (Maverick)
- 6 Life (Simply Red (East West)
- 7 Different Class (Pulp (Island)
- 8 Love Songs (Elton John (Rocket)
- 9 Up all Night (East 17 (London)
- 10 The Ghost of Tom Joad (Bruce Springsteen (Columbia)

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Cool cat, hot stuff

Georgie Fame Ronnie Scott's

A CLEAR sign of where Georgie Fame's priorities lie can be found in his introduction to his most famous song, *Yeh Yeh*. Instead of following standard showbiz practice by telling us how lucky the song has been for him — and it has, selling more than 250,000 copies when it topped the charts in 1965 — Fame lovingly dwells, in true jazz aficionado style, not only on its composers (Rodgers Grani and Pat Patrick, pianist and saxophonist respectively with Mongo Santamaria's band), but also on its lyricist (Jon Fredericks, most famous practitioner of vocalese) and on the version he first heard (a Newport Festival recording featuring Coleman Hawkins and Clark Terry).

Fame and his Blue Flames achieved something close to cult status with their weekly all-nighters at London's Flamingo Club in the 1960s, and he is still exploring the musical ground opened up to him by the recommendations and record collections of that club's patrons.

Thus, one such introduction, to the music of American blues singer/pianist Mose Allison, was commemorated in Fame's set-opening number, *Cool Cat Blues*, an appropriately stinky tune with deceptively subtle lyrics worthy of its dedicatee. Another, to the work of Hammond masters Jimmy McGriff and Jimmy Smith, bore fruit in a bluesy organ feature which saw a stellar front line — Guy Barker (trumpet), Alan Skidmore

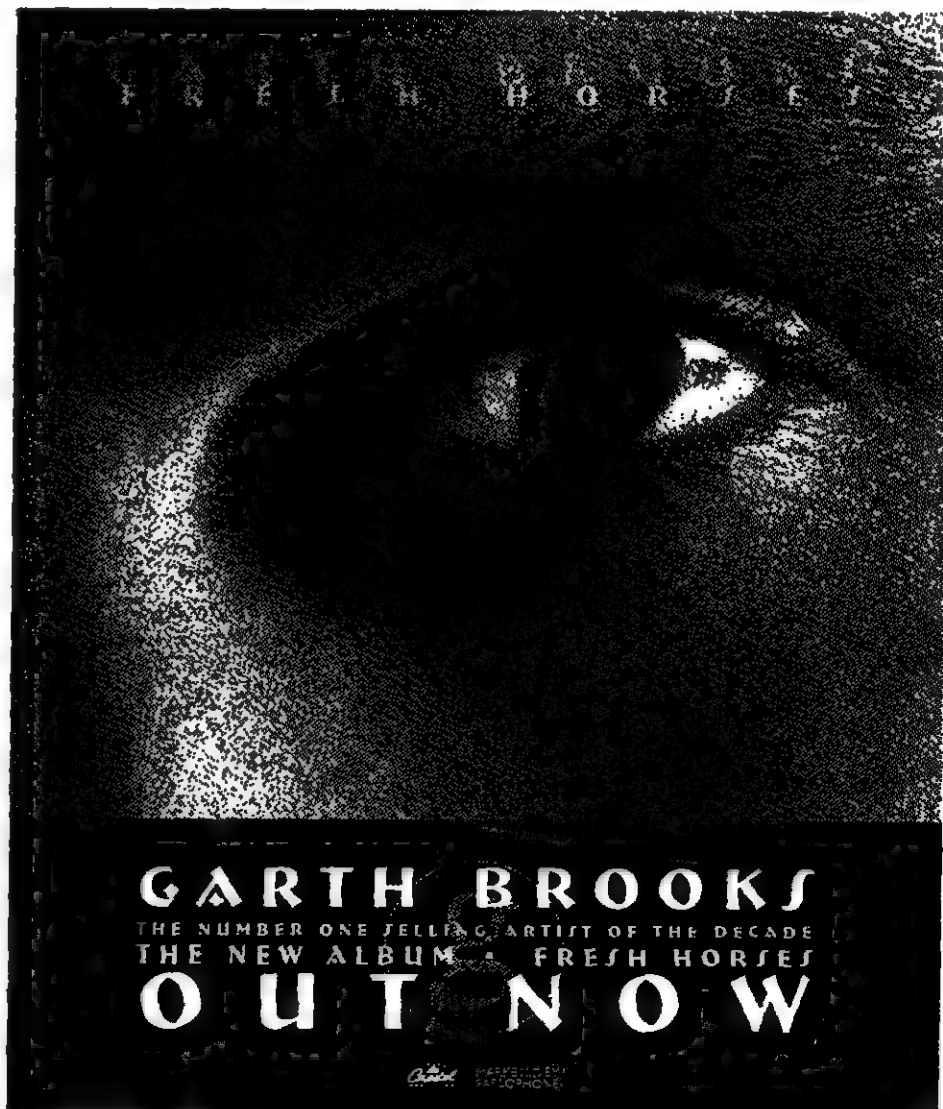
(tenor) and Anthony Kerr (vibes) augment Fame's rhythm section of his sons Tristan and James Powell and bassist Geoff Gascoyne.

More recent musical associations, notably Fame's spell as MD with Van Morrison, also fed into the act. *Moondance*, played at an easy-going lope, not only drew a typically sinewy, intelligent solo from Skidmore and a sparkling contribution from Kerr, but also gave Fame himself the chance to stretch out vocally, featuring musical quotes from *Blue Moon* and *Summertime*.

But it is in the field of vocalese (the practice of setting lyrics to jazz improvisations pioneered by Eddie Jefferson in the 1940s) that Fame truly shines. The Gershwin's *How Long Has This Been Going On* — for which the band was joined by alto player Peter King — allowed Fame vocally to re-create a Chet Baker trumpet solo of typically winsome fragility; King's own *The Woodshed*, developed from Charlie Parker practice material, received similarly accomplished treatment.

Perhaps more important than all the jazz lore underpinning Fame's act, though, is its sheer exuberance and accessibility: as a purveyor of fresh, jazz-laced R & B, he is simply without peer in Britain.

CHRIS PARKER



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KNOW HMV • KNOW MUSIC

Now that boys are falling behind at GCSE, it is time to find out why they are doing so badly, writes Michael Barber

Girls go to the top of the class

The publication of this year's league tables has rekindled the debate about the apparent supremacy of single-sex girls' schools. The evidence of the tables gives the Girls' Schools Association cause to celebrate. Fifty-nine of the top 100 schools at GCSE in England are girls' schools.

No doubt these figures will reinforce a widely held view that a girls' school education would be better for daughters on academic grounds as well as social grounds.

A more general debate about whether overall single-sex education would be more successful than mixed provision may also resurface, because on the evidence of the league tables boys' schools, though less successful than girls' schools, are more successful than mixed schools. Only among comprehensive schools are mixed schools more successful than boys' schools.

These interpretations would, however, be flawed because they are not genuine comparisons of like with like. If we really want to know which types of schools are more effective, it would be necessary to control a range of background factors including previous achievement and social background.

Research which took such factors into account might still show girls' schools being more successful but the differences between girls' boys' and mixed schools would probably be much less stark and would be likely to be overshadowed by other factors including, for example, how effectively the school was managed.

The danger of a debate about types of schools is that it masks a much more important issue: the

evidence at GCSE indicates powerfully that girls in general, whatever type of school they attend, are doing much better than boys.

Moreover, at every other level in compulsory schooling the evidence clearly shows girls outperforming boys. At age seven, for example, while 70 per cent of boys are average or above in reading, the equivalent figure among girls is 81 per cent. At the same age girls are also ahead in maths, though not to the same extent.

A generation ago it was thought that while girls on the whole were more successful in the 11-plus, boys came into their own in secondary education. The GCSE performance of girls over the past seven years has shown this view to be false. Girls now more than equal boys in the traditional male bastions of maths and science and far outperform them in all other subjects. In English, for example, girls are twice as likely to achieve a grade A and 65 per cent of girls are achieving grades A-C as opposed to 50 per cent of boys.

This is a social development that demands attention. A first response might justifiably be to celebrate. The equal opportunities policies adopted by schools, enthusiastically implemented by teachers and supported by government, appear to have worked.

A second reaction is to peer

into the future. It is likely that the generation of girls who have passed through secondary education in recent years will break down still further the remaining male bastions in our society. The glass-ceiling, cracked already, is about to be shattered.

This is the triumphant good news. More worrying are the still very high levels of underachievement among a minority of girls and a much larger proportion of boys.

If we are to come anywhere near meeting the national educational and training targets — which envisage 85 per cent of young people by age 19 having five higher grade GCSEs or the equivalent by the end of the century — then it will be necessary to raise achievement for the 30-40 per cent at present significantly underachieving. Since this group includes a disproportionately large number of boys within it, it is likely to require a consideration of whether there are specific strategies necessary to raise boys' standards.

This, I think, will lead to an examination of two areas in particular. First, the learning of language and reading among boys is a major concern. Secondly, it is evident from Keele University's survey of pupil attitudes that part of the problem at secondary level is lack of motivation among boys. There is a growing number of schools giving careful thought to the underachievement of boys. Now that the problem is clearly identified, the next step is to begin to research the strategies that appear to work in solving it.

Michael Barber is Professor of Education at the Institute of Education, University of London.



Showing their skills: the evidence of exam results suggests that girls perform better at single-sex schools like these at Colchester County High

Daughters have the last word

These days parents don't make all the school choices. David Charter reports

The myth that parents force their offspring into single-sex education is challenged by a girls' school survey showing that daughters usually have the final say.

A survey of families new to independent education at senior level this September showed that the decision was left up to the prospective 11-year-old in six out of ten cases. A further 32 per cent of daughters were consulted, and only 4 per cent said they played no part at all in the choice.

The figures are disclosed in preliminary results of research for the Girls' Public Day School Trust (GPDS), which runs 24 senior girls' independent schools in England.

The fact that the school was single-sex was not, however, the top reason for the girls' final decision. Half the girls cited the friendly atmosphere of the school as the main factor. Other significant reasons were the school's academic record (top priority for a third of the girls); friends going there (17 per cent); family wish (17 per cent); given a scholarship or assisted place (15 per cent); and "I wanted a girls-only school" (10 per cent).

Tim Devlin, who conducted the

survey themselves went to independent schools, with 68 per cent of mothers and 70 per cent of fathers attending single-sex schools.

Academic excellence was the main reason parents gave for considering single-sex girls' schools in the first place. Seven out of ten parents placed their daughter's chances of getting better examination results as a key factor in choosing single-sex education. Other leading reasons were: "Her academic or social needs would be best met" (mentioned by 60 per cent of parents); "she would gain more confidence" (56 per cent); and "boys distract girls at coeducational schools" (44 per cent).

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Shepherd: Why the tables are a success

John O'Leary on the Education Secretary's ideas for the future

Gillian Shepherd is too experienced in state education to be starry-eyed about the realities of parental choice. In her own rural constituency and others like it, schools are too widely dispersed to give some families any option within the state system; in urban areas the most popular schools are often full.

But that does not dim the Education and Employment Secretary's enthusiasm for this week's school league tables. "The aim in the first place was to publish results to make the work of schools and colleges more transparent and help people to make choices. But it has become much more than that: it is about showing what the system can deliver."

Mrs Shepherd says: "I think the tables play an enormously important part not just in choosing schools but in informing people about their performance generally. Even where parents cannot literally choose between schools, they are very conscious of their right to ask questions, and use the tables for that. They have created an atmosphere of expectation."

Criticism of the tables have been taken on board in the last year, for example dropping the measurement of teaching time and accepting the independent schools' case for a new measure for GCSE which was not limited to 15-year-olds. But evolution is likely to be gradual under this Government, and recent calls for wholesale change are likely to go unheeded.

"I am quite prepared to listen to the arguments for change, but it will have to be a good case," Mrs Shepherd says. "It would have been a mistake to make big changes before we had seen whether the exercise was useful and of interest. I don't think there's much doubt on those scores now, but it must be possible to make comparisons with previous years' results, and I do not want to use so many different

measures that people need a trolley to take the tables away with them."

The next change to the English tables is likely to be the addition of GCSE results from previous years, following the practice already adopted in Scotland and Wales. Further ahead comes an assessment of the "value added" by secondary schools and colleges, and the likelihood of primary school tables once national curriculum testing has "bedded down".

In the meantime, ministers will be reacting to the pressure created by the tables by extending popular schools wherever possible. The constraints of next week's Budget may rule out a big capital programme on the lines once envisaged by Kenneth Clarke, as Education Secretary. But Mrs Shepherd has recently approved a number of new sixth forms in grant-maintained schools and will move as fast as I

can on other extensions. As well as "giving a fair wind" to proposals for more selection, Mrs Shepherd will be encouraging a growing movement towards specialisation in state schools. "The demand from schools to become technology or language colleges is greater than we can hope to satisfy at the moment. I think it is fantastic that so many are willing to go the extra mile to increase the diversity of provision available to parents."

Ministers will be keeping out of the debate over single-sex versus coeducational schools, however. "It is a very difficult area and not one in which it would be appropriate for the Government to intervene," Mrs Shepherd says. "I am attracted to single-sex schools for girls, but it appears that boys do better in mixed schools."

"Perhaps there are lessons for the internal organisation of mixed schools, which can use examination results to see if some subjects would be better taught in single-sex classes," she says.



Different strokes: Gillian Shepherd wants to encourage the growing movement toward specialisation in schools

When rules put a limit on classroom expansion

David Charter on the problems facing oversubscribed schools

John Major's desire to expand popular schools will be of little comfort to the 40 families turned away in September from one of Britain's most improved comprehensives.

This week's league tables show Noadswood School in Didsbury, near Southam, recorded the country's second highest improvement rate for students gaining five good GCSEs.

It is oversubscribed and yet Hampshire County Council cannot get Government approval to build extra classrooms on Noadswood's 15-acre site. Empty desks at two nearby grant-maintained schools, which achieved lower GCSE results, thwarted the council's bid for "basic need" funding last year, and look set to do the same this year.

Mr Major told *The Times* in August that he was looking at ways to make it easier for popular schools to grow. "If we are serious about improving standards we have also got to look at how to make it

easier to close poor schools and expand popular schools."

A pilot programme is running in Wales, with £23 million in extra borrowing available for local authorities to add new buildings to oversubscribed schools. There were 160 bids but just 19 can be met this year.

Noadswood has done the difficult bit. It has raised standards from 50 per cent of pupils passing five GCSEs at grades A-C to 75 per cent. Parents in its corner of southwest Hampshire want the school to grow. But government rules stop money being spent while there is room at nearby schools.

Tony Barron, Liberal Democrat chairman of education in Hampshire, accuses the Funding Agency for Schools, the grant-maintained schools quango, of blocking Noadswood's expansion by

not acting to remove an estimated 250 surplus places at nearby Applemore and Hardley GM schools. However, the FAS claims not to have received a "formal request" to remove surplus places.



John Major: schools plan

Philip Townsend, an FAS spokesman, said: "Hardley has a sixth form approved, which will open in September 1996, and any surplus places will be absorbed by sixth-form pupils. Applemore has a proposal for a sixth form being considered by the Secretary of State and, if approved, any surplus places would be absorbed by the sixth-formers."

John Samuels, Noadswood's head teacher, is steering clear of the broader political arguments. He is too busy setting targets and teaching the 900 pupils in his charge.

A key factor behind the improving GCSE performance, he believes, was to set each student a "challenging but realistic" grade to aim at as they embarked on their two-year course. His students also receive a basic progress report every eight weeks, seen by parents, which picks up problems and finds solutions. If only the bureaucrats could agree on a way to plan school places so diligently.

Added value tells the whole story

Exam leagues fail to show how schools improve their students, says Richard Evans

It is surprising how quickly everyone seems to have accepted the examination league tables. Parents now peruse them, trying to decide what school their child should go to, while teachers look at them, hoping that their school will be showing some signs of improvement.

But how much are these tables really worth? Do they tell parents what they need to know, or are they misleading? On the surface, they have their uses. They provide accurate information about how schools are performing in exams, with details of the average number of GCSEs and A levels achieved by pupils, and the grades.

But is this what we need? If you had an average racehorse and were looking for a trainer, whom would you send it to? Someone who has a stable full of superb animals, and wins the most races, or someone who takes on the less able horses and coaxes above-average performances out of them?

Personally, I would go for the latter, because the trainer would be more likely to do my horse justice. The league tables we have now tell us which trainer (or school) gets the best results, but we have no way of knowing which is the best trainer. Parents using these tables to decide where to send their child are therefore choosing the school which is the most selective in its intake — because this will achieve the best results — rather than the one which will give their child the best chance.

It is easy to see why teachers become disheartened and dejected when you realise that these tables make no allowance for the hard work put in to help disadvantaged or less-able students. Certainly, some of the best results I have helped students to obtain would not look good on paper. My greatest achievement as a teacher was, in my opinion, with a pupil who was, at 11, unable to add up even the simplest of numbers. She was not talented, but we worked hard together for five years, and my satisfaction at seeing her get a grade C in GCSE mathematics was immense.

A colleague of mine, an English teacher, told me of her experience with a Kenyan child who did not speak

any English. She was more overjoyed by his low-grade in GCSE English than she was by the nine students she taught who achieved a GCSE grade A, for she felt that her achievement here was so much greater.

The current league tables do not reflect this achievement, and thus could be considered unsatisfactory. Indeed, you might even wonder whether they are of any use at all. But that doesn't mean that we should be scrapping the whole idea. We need to create a new table — the VAT or value-added table. We need to find some way of demonstrating how much the school has improved its students. Some schools are producing their own value-added tables, but the Department for Education and Employment should be organising it.

Because we will want to know whether and by how much a school has improved academic development, it is important to test the children as they enter school and as they leave. All schools should be tested, so that an LEA-wide and country-wide comparison can be made. And this information must be as easily accessible as possible — not a long list of meaningless numbers. Too much information makes tables incomprehensible. Perhaps they should show the average grade of children over core curriculum subjects only, or a school could be graded according to the amount of "value" it has added to children in its care.

But the most important requirement in setting up these value-added tables is that they must not increase the workload of teachers, administrators or children. One way of doing this is to use the national curriculum tests, now largely accepted by schools. Their results could be used as a direct comparison across the country.

There will always be difficulties and dissenters but, with league tables already in place, let's finally give credit to teachers who work in adverse conditions, and to children who struggle against the odds to achieve amazing results.

● The author is a senior teacher at St Marylebone School, London, and a former adviser to the Government on teacher training.

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John O'Leary explains how some schools choose their pupils

Selection bounces back

The comprehensive school may dominate state education, but a steady trickle back to selection has been gathering pace in the last year. Growing numbers of schools are taking the opportunity to select part of their intake, either on academic grounds or in specialist areas.

Selection never went away in a surprisingly large swath of England. Parts of Buckinghamshire, Essex, Kent and Lincolnshire defied the last Labour Government's orders to reorganise their schools on comprehensive lines. Trafford's grammar schools consistently outscore most of their rivals in the North of England; those in Kingston and Redbridge do the same in London.

Some 160 grammar schools have survived, more than half as grant-maintained schools. They cater for more than 123,000 pupils, and Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, is promising a "fair wind" to future proposals.

Just such a proposal is being developed in Milton Keynes to bring the area into line with the rest of Buckinghamshire, but the trend elsewhere is towards partial selection. This allows schools to avoid the bureaucracy involved in a formal change of character and to control the range of abilities within a comprehensive framework.

Only two schools have become fully selective on academic ability in the last 20 years: Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, in Penrith, Cumbria, and Queen Elizabeth Boys School, in Barnet, north London. But more than 50 GM schools have applied for partial selection, either on

11-PLUS STYLE QUESTIONS

ISOMORPHIC RELATIONSHIPS

In each of three questions the figures in boxes A, B and C are similar in some way. Look at the figures in boxes D to J and find TWO figures which are similar to the first three figures. Put a circle around the letters showing these two figures.

A B C D E F G H I J

ROTATING CUBES

In each of three questions cube A has been rotated and cube B shows what it now looks like. Imagine that cube C was rotated in the same way. One of the cubes from D to H shows how cube C would now look. Find this cube and put a circle around the letter above it.

A B C D E F G H

The words HALE, SEAL, LASH are coded 5842, 2483 and 3425 but not necessarily in that order. Write down the codes for the following:

SHELL _____

ALES _____

LEASH _____

HEALS _____

Work out the following letter sums using the above letter values.

(A + E) + (L + C) _____ Write the answer as a number

(E + L) + (S + I) _____ Write the answer as a letter

(A + S) + (H + C) _____ Write the answer as a letter

Test questions from Athey Educational; answers below

academic ability or aptitude for a specialist subject.

There are now more than 100 technology or language colleges, and other schools can also reserve up to 10 per cent of places for drama, music or sporting ability.

Labour opposes selection, and has promised local refer-

endums where councillors want to make all schools comprehensive. Labour authorities have avoided confrontation with their grammar schools, fearing they would opt out, a route that would be closed under a Blair administration.

John Major has promised

HAVE THE TABLES TURNED IN YOUR SCHOOL'S FAVOUR?

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THE POST

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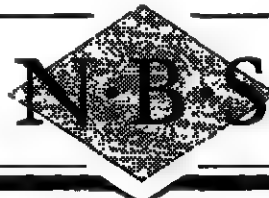
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British Deaf Association

The British Deaf Association has now formulated the aims and objectives for Education, Developing Deaf People and Children, Families and Young People. We are now looking for an

EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIST

to develop, campaign and take up the strategic management of this section. This person will have direct responsibility to raise the profile of these services, in particular Education, by employing the appropriate mechanisms, i.e. campaigning, and is expected to develop a team to achieve these objectives.

The Education and Development Strategist is expected to carry out the following responsibilities:

- Initiate and develop contacts with central and local government and other agencies.
- Develop, plan and set up strategies to promote the BDA's policies in Education, Youth services and the development of Deaf people.

- Develop, in partnership with the appropriate agencies, leadership, management and self-empowerment training and opportunities for professional training needs of the Deaf Community.
- Develop and facilitate networks and links between the Deaf community, parents of Deaf children, professionals working with Deaf people and other groups to further the aims of this service.

The successful applicant would have to show evidence of experience in:

- Formulating and setting up strategies to achieve objectives.
- Planning and executing campaigns to highlight the issues.
- Advising and influencing key decision makers.
- Enabling and motivating people to achieve objectives.
- Setting budgets and working within them.

Salary no less than £20,000 p.a.

The closing date for all applications is 8th December 1995.

The shortlisted candidates will be interviewed in the week commencing 18th December 1995.

For further details and an application form, please write to: Claudia Hunt, Executive Officer, British Deaf Association, 28 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5BN.

The British Deaf Association is working towards becoming an Equal Opportunities Employer and Deaf people are especially encouraged to apply for this position.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

JESUS COLLEGE

Cambridge

College Accountant

The College wishes to appoint a College Accountant to take up his or her duties on 9 April or as soon as possible thereafter.

The College Accountant has overall responsibility for the preparation of College Accounts, covering both internal and external activities. He or she will be responsible for ensuring that adequate records are maintained, and for some related administrative duties. Over the next two years the College intends to replace and upgrade its Computing facilities, so applicants should be suitably experienced in computerised systems.

The successful applicant will be expected to be a part or fully qualified accountant from one of the leading accountancy bodies.

Stipend for the appointment will be not less than £25,000 p.a., and is pensionable.

Further particulars and an application form may be obtained from the Senior Bursar's Secretary, Jesus College, Cambridge CB5 6SL, tel: (01223) 339497.

Jesus College is a charity for the promotion of education.

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PRINCIPALS



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

Principal and Vice-Chancellor

The University Court of the University of Aberdeen invites applications and also names suggested for consideration for the office of Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, which will become vacant at the end of September 1996.

In this its Quincentenary year the University continues to maintain its tradition of outstanding scholarship. It employs 2,600 staff and has a student population of over 10,000 across four Faculties: Arts and Divinity, Social Sciences and Law, Medicine and Medical Sciences, and Science and Engineering. The University currently has a turnover of about £100 million per annum.

A note of further particulars governing the appointment may be obtained from Lord Wilson of Tillymore, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, c/o The Secretary's Office, University of Aberdeen, Regent Walk, Aberdeen AB9 1FX, to whom all enquiries, applications and suggestions should be addressed.

The closing date for applications is 20 December 1995.

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SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

DULWICH COLLEGE

LONDON SE21

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

(The Master)

The Governors invite applications for the appointment of Master of Dulwich College in succession to Mr A.C.F. Verity, MA.

Full particulars of the post may be obtained from: The Clerk to the Governors of Dulwich College, 87 College Road, Dulwich, London SE21 7HH to whom all applications should be sent by the 15th December, 1995.

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FELLOWSHIPS

HERTFORD COLLEGE

OXFORD

Tutorial Fellowship in Law

The College invites applications for an Official Fellowship and Tutorship in Law with effect from 1 October 1996, or as soon thereafter as possible. The title of University Lecturer (UL) may be conferred upon the holder of the Fellowship, but the full stipend associated with such a Lectureship and Fellowship will be met by the College. The University may at a later date (though with no commitment to do so) convert the title into a sabbatical university post.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Vice-Principal's Secretary, Hertford College, Oxford OX1 3BW, to whom application should be sent not later than 17th January 1996.

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Thompson makes call for team approach to programme of reform

Champion of young combating despair

David Miller in Manchester on the crusade by a karate past master to rid the streets of crime

YOUTH crime today costs Great Britain £7 billion a year. In perhaps one of the most intense personal campaigns since William Wilberforce's for the abolition of slavery, the Youth Charter for Sport (YCS) was launched in Manchester yesterday.

The founder, inspiration and life-force of the YCS, a man who will talk you to the point of exhaustion in three hours, or less, given the chance, is Geoff Thompson. When Thompson was a violent, disorientated boy committed to unspecific vengeance on a society that he felt had disowned him, his mother forecast his lifestyle would find him dead by the age of 20. Rescued from the streets of Hackney, east London, by the Sobell Centre in Islington, taught the self-discipline of karate, which channelled his aggression, Thompson became the world champion five times. In astonishment and gratitude at the transformation in his life, and for his achievements, the hyperactive Thompson is attempting to create an institution that will rescue other youngsters from the streets, gangland and despair.

Yesterday, after a reception in Manchester hosted by the Duke of Westminster and attended by Manchester City Council leaders, corporate business and youth agencies,

promises of funding in cash and kind were pouring into YCS coffers. The initiative is one that has drawn the attention not only of the Conservative Government, but also of government and youth agencies in gang-torn Los Angeles, in Cape Town and in Johannesburg. Thompson is a consultant in both countries.

"If we could pocket the enthusiasm shown today, we could achieve so much," Thompson said after the launch, which was attended also by Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, never mind that the heart of Thompson's social renaissance lies in Moss Side, within a few hundred yards of the Manchester City's Maine Road ground.

This was an area where, only a few years ago, city councillors dared not tread. Or journalists, for that matter. Murders were commonplace, vandalism rampant and unchecked. Even the supervisor at one leisure centre was kidnapped. Security guards at Nia Leisure Centre wore bulletproof vests; entrances had electronic metal detectors.

In barely two years, establishing an unprecedented relationship with local youth and schools, Thompson has transformed facilities such as Proctor Youth Centre, Hulme, the Nia Centre and the Moss Side Youth Centre.



Thompson, left, voices the ideas that have helped to steer youngsters away from trouble in Manchester's Moss Side

For half a day, I toured with him the Moss Side streets. So derelict had the area been that the only occupation of older people was fear. Today, the centres are safe, busy, a thriving picture of racially-integrated social life.

White, black and Asian children learn to swim side by side; mothers and teenagers work at aerobics in the gymnasiums.

The Moss Side Youth Centre has 18 part-time staff, three volunteers and a participant turnover of 5,000 a week. Eighteen projects of the YCS have already raised £1 million. Thompson needs and seeks millions more.

"For a fraction of the cost of crime, we can steer a great many antisocial young people away from drugs and violence by giving them an opportunity to develop a life through sport," Thompson said. "Many of Britain's top athletes have used sport to overcome social disadvantage. I'm one of them."

The progress is visible, tangible and exciting. A football team, Moss Side Amateurs, drawn exclusively from gangland, lead the local league, yet for the time being they play on a pitch where there is no changing-room, no toilet. If someone would provide the cash, they would find the

voluntary bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters and electricians.

South Africa, which wants to copy Thompson's initiative, has sent the first multicultural football side, an under-23 Olympic squad that will play Manchester United's youth side.

In 1993, shortly after the Los Angeles riots, a group of 20 youngsters visited Moss Side. The next year, against all advice, the YCS organised a return visit for 16 children in a party led by Dame Mary Glen Haig, a member of the International Olympic Committee, and organised by Thompson together with Billy Hughes

and Pauline Weir, two youth leaders. The trip was a huge success.

"Today's launch has given us a national platform," Thompson said yesterday, "but all agencies concerned with youth and schools must work together. Without a collective national approach, we will not be able to redirect the violent way of life as seen in America. We need a response from the Home Office as much as the Department of Education. The YCS can perhaps produce a few sports winners, but the overall benefit is to the whole of society. I can't now do any more on my own."

Jones earns lucrative reward for surprise title victory

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

PAUL JONES, who was out of work and broke barely 12 months ago, has an excellent chance of securing his future in the new year. After his victory on Wednesday at Sheffield when, to the surprise of many experts, he lifted the World Boxing Organisation's (WBO) light middleweight title by outpointing Verno Phillips, of the United States, the champion, he has two lucrative contests ahead of him: a mandatory defence against Bronko McCart, another American, and a meeting with Adrian Dodson, the talented Londoner.

"It's a fairy-story," Freddie King, Jones's trainer, said. "He was skint and on the dole. Now, he has a top-of-the-range car and is buying a house. He's got his confidence back."

Jones retired two years ago after being knocked out by Paul Wesley, of Birmingham, but King revived his interest in boxing last January by using him as a sparring partner for his other boxers. "I didn't want to get back in the ring," Jones said. "Freddie King helped me a lot."

Barry Hearn, the London promoter, helped to secure a world title chance by telling Bob Arum, Phillips's American promoter, that Jones was an easy touch. "We knew that, if Jones could get past the first four rounds, he would box his ears off," Hearn said. "So a big ring and English gloves, which are softer than the Reyes gloves [preferred by punchers], were a big help."

Even with the softer gloves, Jones found himself on the floor in the first round and for the next six rounds stayed well clear of the American's right hand by refusing to commit himself to a battle.

Phillips, who had to step on the scales three times before making the weight, started to feel the effects of weight reduction in the middle rounds and Jones came back into the contest. He took the last four rounds comfortably to secure victory on a split decision.

Steve Collins, the WBO super-middleweight champion, is reluctant to meet Ray Close, his former stablemate. Close was refused a third contest with Chris Eubank when he failed a brain scan. Though he has passed subsequent examinations, Collins said: "I have no intention of doing anything that might jeopardise his health."

Electronic net judge may make debut in Australia

By STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE electronic device that is to replace the net cord judge during Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour events next year is not yet certain to be used during the Australian Open in January. A formal decision may be announced during the Grand Slam Cup, which starts in Munich on December 5.

The machine, which gives the umpire a visual and audible signal, is the third technological aid to enter professional tennis.

The first, known as Cyclops, measures whether or not a service is long and, though it tends now and then to malfunction, has become an accepted feature.

The second, set beneath all the lines on the court, was to have been introduced at the US Open last year. However, it worked so erratically during belated trials that the proposal was rejected.

During extensive testing and after recent modifications, the new apparatus has gained the significant approval of players and officials.

The least significant member of the judges positioned around the perimeter of the court promises no longer to be a regular sight at men's events.

Net cord judges were considered to be increasingly in danger from services that are nowadays customarily propelled by men at speeds of up to 136mph (the fastest recorded by Greg Rusedski). Protective headgear and glasses have been worn this year as precautionary measures.

They might have been made redundant sooner or later, anyway. Consideration has already been given to the thought that all net cords should be regarded as a natural element of fortune in the game. That has yet to gain either widespread support or official recognition.

The International Tennis Federation is to discuss the latest electronic implement at a meeting in Munich.

Nevertheless, the ATP, apparently a more potent body, has already concluded that it should be in operation whenever, in future, it is at work. Tim Henman, the Great Britain No.2, reached the quarter-finals of the ATP Challenger tournament in Andorra yesterday with a 6-3, 7-6 victory over Michael Joyce, of the United States, in the second round.

Tout promises medal rivals a run for their money

By CHRIS MOORE

COMPLETE with the latest appliance of science — this time by courtesy of the National Lottery rather than Zanussi, the team's sponsor — Mark Tout resumes his campaign this weekend to secure Great Britain's first world championship bobsleigh medal for 30 years. Tout, 34, goes into his eleventh season as a driver with a £20,000 state-of-the-art Dresden sled capable, he believes, of achieving his ambition.

The former soldier finished fifth in the two and four-man competitions at the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway, and improved on that by one place in the four-man event at the world championships in Winterberg, Germany, last season.

The world championships this season are being held from February 12 to 24 in Calgary, Canada: he has won medals in the past three World Cup races staged there. Tout's four-man crew also won successive silver medals

at the 1994 and 1995 European championships.

"My main target is still an Olympic medal at the 1998 Winter Games in Japan, which will almost certainly be my last race before retirement," Tout said. "But that's still 27 months away. We've been inching nearer and nearer to the top crews over the past few years and, but for one little mistake in last year's world championships, we'd have been in the top three."

The season begins in Lillehammer

this weekend with the first of six World Cup races culminating in the final round in St Moritz in January, which doubles as the European championships. The other venues are Winterberg, Königssee (Germany), La Plagne (France) and Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy).

This year, for the first time in the World Cup series, both two and four-man races are being staged during the same weekend to assist with television coverage.

SPORTS LETTERS

Pitfalls of qualifying system

From Mr Paul Denza

Sir, In the European football championship qualifying match between France and Israel last week, nobody could seriously have complained if the French, who were leading 2-0, had deliberately scored two own goals at the end.

With Romania beating Slovakia, France's second place in the group was assured, but, by allowing them two late goals, France could have elevated Israel to fourth place in the group above Poland, whereby France's marginally superior

record against Israel would have been taken into account when determining best-placed runners-up. France, as sixth-best-placed runners-up, had little to spare in avoiding the need for a play-off match.

With progress possible through compromised performance, the pitfalls of the qualification system are clear to see. If matches against lesser teams are to be disregarded, why play them at all? Yours sincerely, PAUL DENZA, 85 Redington Road, NW3.

Time to have Irish captain

From Mr Peter Hughes

Sir, Considering the service Irish professional golfers have given to Ryder Cup teams over the years, it is surprising that an Irishman has not yet been honoured with the captaincy.

Those responsible for selecting the successor to Bernard Gallacher will find it difficult to find a better candidate than Christy O'Connor Jr.

He is a gentleman in every sense of the word, with a long and successful career, who has overcome the difficult task of following in the footsteps of his illustrious uncle and is highly respected by his peers throughout the golfing world.

He is the ideal man to lead the European team in 1997 and, with Seve Ballesteros hopefully back in top form, they could form an unbeatable partnership.

Yours faithfully, PETER HUGHES, 19 Pentland Avenue, Shephard, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Street credibility

From Mr Jack Thomas

Sir, Dr Roger Morgan's theory, supported by Lord Aberdare (Sports Letters, November 10), that real tennis originated in the shape of medieval streets is attractive.

However, medieval streets were usually extremely narrow whereas a real tennis court is at least 38ft wide: a street is by definition open at both ends, but a real tennis court has walls at both ends; real tennis is played on a court (ie, a courtyard), enclosed by the sort of buildings which surely surrounded it originally.

Yours faithfully, JACK THOMAS, The Roost, Springhead Road, Uplyme, Dorset.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211.

Davis and Pace defy elements

AT THE end of a windy day at the world match-racing yachting championships off Auckland, New Zealand, yesterday, Rod Davis, the home favourite, and Bertrand Pace, the defending champion from France, are sure of a place in the semi-finals. Behind them are five crews fighting for the two remaining positions.

Racing on the Waitemata Harbour was a hectic test of boat-handling in winds that blew constantly at more than 20 knots and often topped 30 knots. Given the weight of wind, it was a tribute to the skills of the world's leading match-racers that very little damage was done.

Davis's unbeaten run was broken by Magnus Holmberg, of Sweden, but he answered with another unbroken string of victories and, by the day's end, had notched up 13 wins in 14 starts. Pace was next on the leaderboard with ten wins.

Ed Baird, the No.2 seed from the United States, had eight wins, two clear of four skippers all tied on six — Peter Gilmore, the No.1 seed from Australia, Roy Heimer, of Holland, Holmberg and Markus Wieser, of Germany.

Racing was stopped for more than two hours as the wind increased, but a gale warning for today galvanised the racers back into action in the hope of getting through the programme.

New Zealand will mount only a single syndicate defence of the America's Cup, Sir Peter Blake, the Team New Zealand leader, said yesterday.

Blake, who confirmed that the defence would take place in Hauraki Gulf, off the Auckland coast, in late February or early March, 2000, said that it had been decided that a single syndicate would have the best chance of harnessing New Zealand's resources against what is expected to be a record number of challengers.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The "trap pass" is seen less now than it used to be, but there are still some hands on which it is a useful approach. This is a deal from the Sowter — Rosen match in the BBL Premier League.

Dealer North	North-South vulnerable	IMP's									
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Contract: Two Hearts doubled, by South. Lead: Nine of Diamonds

I think that East (Phil King) bid his hand well. It is often best, when your principal suit is bid on your right, to pass and await developments. When North-South subsided in Two Hearts and it came back to East, he was in a position to double for take-out.

This was bound to be based on a strong hand with good diamonds and short hearts — otherwise, East would have taken action on the first round. It was not difficult for West to pass the double.

East won the king of diamonds and played the ace. Senior ruffed low, then played king, ace and another club.

At the other table, Roman Smolski, our team-mate, doubled the opening One Diamond, and North-South were allowed to wriggle off the hook in the confusion. East-West eventually played 3NT, going down.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AGNOSIA
a. A white rock plant
b. Loss of perception
c. Lack of faith

AGLEY
a. Ugly
b. A Cornish pixy stone
c. Awry

BOUVARDIA
a. A Mexican plant
b. Boasting
c. A Russian ox-cart

DAUNCY
a. Pleased with oneself
b. Delicate
c. Dapper and jaunty

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Campomanes resigns

In an extraordinary move, Florencio Campomanes, the colourful and controversial president of the World Chess Federation (Fide), has resigned his post at a meeting of the world body in Paris. For many years, Campomanes and Garry Kasparov, the world champion, formed two mutually hostile armed camps.

This culminated in Kasparov's decision, two years ago, to break away and form the rival Professional Chess Association (PCA). The past two world championship matches, London 1993 and New York 1995, have been played under PCA auspices.

A year ago, during the 1994 Moscow Chess Olympiad, Campomanes and Kasparov came together to hammer out a deal that would reunite the bodies. It was this compromise that was rejected by delegates in Paris by a unanimous vote of 30-0, thus causing Campomanes's resignation.

A reunification world championship match between the champions of the PCA and of Fide had been scheduled for 1996. A key first step was that Fide had to produce its own champion and Campomanes had been accused of dragging his heels over finding sponsorship for this contest.

The front runner as new Fide president is Kirsan Ilyumzov, 33, a chess lover who is already President of Kalmykia, an autonomous republic of the Russian Federation. Moves are also afoot, now that Campomanes has been swept aside, to organise the Fide championship between Anatoly Karpov, of Russia, and Gata Kamsky, of the United States. The

city of Montreal has offered a \$Fr 1.7 million (about £1 million) prize to stage this event next spring.

Miles loses

Tony Miles lost again in the Zonal tournament in Linares, Spain, but still retains chances of qualifying for the next stage.

White: Tony Miles

Black: Loek van Wely

Linares Zonal, November 1995

Trompovsky Attack

1	d4	N6
2	Bg5	N6
3	Bd4	d5
4	e3	Bf5
5	f3	Nf6
6	g4	Bg6
7	h4	f5
8	g5	Nd7
9	Bd3	Bxd3
10	Qd3	Nc6
11	g6	f6
12	Nc3	N6
13	Qd5	Qd7
14	Qx7	Ku7
15	Q-O-O	e6
16	g4	N6
17	Nge2	Nxg6
18	Rd1	Nf4
19	Nx4	c6
20	Nce2	Rh7
21	Rg6	h7
22	Nd3	Kf7
23	Nx4	be4
24	be4	Rd8
25	c5	c5
26	dxc5	Nx4
27	Rh1	e5

White resigns

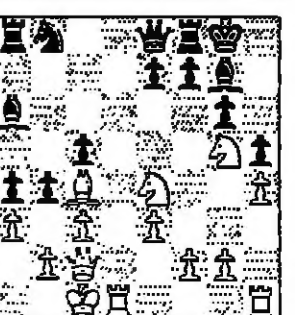
Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Rudd — Sheldon, British championship, Swansea, 1995. Black's position looks reasonably secure, but her kingside is short of defenders. How did White exploit this in dramatic fashion?

Solution on page 46



England leave Moore in isolation

By DAVID HANDS
AND MARK SOUSTER

DOORS that once seemed wide open for Brian Moore and Simon Shaw are closing fast. Moore, dropped by England this season, remains outside the national rugby union squad that will train at Marlow next week and the unfortunate Shaw faces an operation today that will determine his long-term future.

Moore will lead London against the North at Wakefield tomorrow aiming to prove his critics wrong, especially as Simon Mitchell, his club rival at Harlequins, was yesterday selected by England as one of nine additions to the 21 who constituted the match party against South Africa last Saturday.

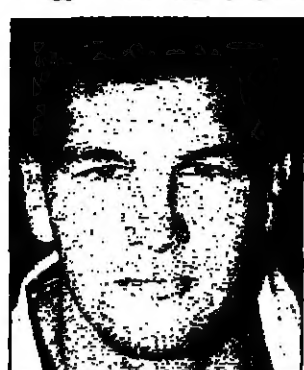
Mitchell is a newcomer to the training squad, as is James

Naylor, the Orrell wing. They will be joined by Tim Stimpson, Nick Greenstock, Andy Gomarsall, Darren Gargor, Rory Jenkins, Tony Diprose, and Paul Hull, the Bristol captain and full back, who had been contemplating a move to centre in order to impress the selectors once more.

In other respects, it has been a bad week for Bristol. Two of their younger players, David John and Altan Ozdemir, have left the club after a disagreement over prospective remuneration, while Shaw, who has been left out of his season, playing against Transvaal on Wednesday, he suffered an horrific injury that left him with a double dislocation of the left ankle, a broken shin bone and torn tendons and ligaments.

Shaw, 22, announced his

potential as a late replacement on the England tour to South Africa in 1994. He played for the A team last season and was expected to be part of the World Cup squad before he damaged medial ligaments in February. This season, he has struggled with a hip injury but



Shaw: convalescence

was part of the national training squad until the accident on Wednesday that, even if the operation is successful, will entail a long period of convalescence.

His place in the London team tomorrow goes to Mick Watson, of Harlequins, and



Cronin: operation

Guy Gregory will play at stand-off half after the withdrawal of David Pears, who is still inconvenienced by the ankle injury that he suffered last month. John Fowler, the Sale lock, is likely to be added to the England squad as second-row back-up.

Damian Cronin, the Scotland second-row forward, underwent an exploratory operation on his right knee yesterday after aggravating a long-standing injury against Western Samoa last Saturday. The operation was carried out by Jimmy Graham, the Scottish Rugby Union surgeon. He removed several small pieces of cartilage from behind the knee joint. It will be some time before it is known whether Cronin will need further surgery that, at the age of 32, might threaten his career.

Milan are expected to ap-

peal against the 60-day suspension imposed on Massimo Giovannelli, the flanker sent off for a head-butt during the Heineken Cup defeat by Pontypriid on Wednesday. Italian hopes of a semi-final place now rest with Benetton Treviso, who meet Toulouse on December 12 in pool A.

Meanwhile, representatives of Scotland's top clubs met the Scottish Rugby Union last night and insisted that they, not the districts, should represent Scotland in Europe next season. The stance is likely to lead to further conflict with the union, with whom relations are already strained.

The number of Scottish representatives in the championship, and when it will take place, is expected to be decided before the final of the inaugural event, in Cardiff on January 7.

Italians at a loss in land of beer and chips



FREUD
ON FRIDAY

It was brilliant... and if slithy loves gyred and gimbal in the wabe, and the borogoves were mimsy, the light was just too murky for me to be sure. What was beyond doubt is that 30 rugby union footballers panting steam into the cold night air performed insufficiently well, under lights that were insufficiently bright, to bring serious joy to a crowd of Welsh supporters neither as fervent nor as numerous as the home team's management expected. Nor did the fussiness of the referee do anything but mar our enjoyment.

This is the first year of the Heineken Cup competition and none of the contesting guinea pigs had much idea of what was going to happen, let alone when and where and for how much reward. The Rugby Football Union declined participation: Wales, Ireland and France each entered the full complement of three clubs; Italy sent two and the dozen, playing in four pools of three, with pool winners to contest the semi-finals, was made up by Farul Constanta, the Romania champions. The eastern Europeans have already been eliminated and are back by the Black Sea with a record of played two, lost two, points for 18, points against 140 to show for their involvement.

On Wednesday night, it



The Pontypriid and Milan packs square up amid the gathering gloom during their match at Sardis Road

was Pontypriid against Milan, as unlikely a pairing as you would wish to encounter. Milan is Italy's second city, its main financial and industrial centre, home of the bar that serves the best Bellinis in the world (a Bellini is champagne poured over liquidised white peaches).

Pontypriid is, well, a town in the Welsh valleys that has lost its core industry and the indigenous folk drink pints of journeyman beer and eat

chips. Its population is about one-fiftieth of the Lombardian city.

Ponty not only won quite comfortably via eight penalty goals and a converted try, but also finished up playing 14 men... Giovannelli, the Italian flanker, believed by some locals to have family connections in Llanelli, being sent off just before the end.

Sardis Road, a few minutes walk from Ponty's railway station, where enterprise is

manifested by sending trains off before the advertised time, is a 24-carat no-frills ground. An ageing stand in which two or three thousand people do just that for £5 faces one seating about half that number for 60 per cent extra cash. Viewing is excellent, the tip-up seats uncomfortable, but there is a genuine corrugated iron roof. In the space behind both goals, people stand three or four deep and peer into the gloom. Single-

sex clusters of young folk roamed around before the game: half a dozen nymphomaniacs eating ham and cheese baps; a gaggle of red-haired boys who ended standing behind a goal shouting "off, off, off" each time the referee blew his whistle. One lad, who cannot have been more than eight or nine, positioned himself to catch penalty kicks and showed that there is some useful talent in the pipeline.

For the rest, supporters are mostly men and occasionally shout "Ponty, Ponty, Ponty", but, when there is something about which to become enthusiastic, "Pontypontyponty". If Milanese supporters came over, I saw them not neither were they heard.

Both teams received generous applause on taking the field, the home team with a canine mascot. Surprisingly, for a club whose colours are black and white, the dog is brown and wears a bespoke jacket. I would change that.

It is hard to watch an unsatisfactory match under Spartan conditions (by next year, they tell me, it will all become handsome and comfortable as befits a side that has Ponty's winning record) without becoming disillusioned: I felt like the small, loud man sitting beside me wearing a large cap and chewing gum who at one point, when Jenkins took an especially long time to position the ball for a penalty kick, shouted: "If you kick, I'll clap."

He missed.

The game ended, as games do, and one of the Italians players on his way to the team coach said how disappointed he was that the Princess of Wales was not there: surely Wales is her place? He had looked forward to seeing her. As he was Argentinian, one of four in the Italian team, I was able to tell him of Her Royal Highness's visit to Buenos Aires.

So, those who did not go to the bar walked down the hill into the oyster light of a Welsh winter evening. I heard one say: "What did you think?"

His friend replied: "Well, it was one of those days."

I would go along with that assessment.

Hall pledges support for Bosman's court crusade

SIR John Hall, the chairman of Newcastle United football club, is to lend his support to Jean-Marc Bosman when his controversial case, which has serious implications for the future of the game, is discussed at a European Parliament sports convention in Brussels on Monday.

Sir John said yesterday that he and his lawyers would be meeting with Bosman and his legal representatives to give them their backing, a stance that puts Newcastle in alignment with Rangers but against the majority view of, among others, UEFA, the European governing body, the Football Association and the Scottish Football Association.

Sir John said that Bosman was under increasing pressure to drop his case, but, such is the Newcastle chairman's belief that the authorities are wrong, that he wants to give his personal support to the Belgian in Brussels.

The convention has been called by a group of MEPs to consider how best to implement the expected confirmation by the European Court of Justice early next year that football's transfer system, and the restrictions on the number of foreign players employed by clubs, are illegal under the laws of the European Union.

The finding was given in a case brought by Bosman after he completed a two-year contract with RFC Liege, was offered a new deal at a quarter of his salary and, when he declined, was prevented from leaving by the price the club put on his head.

An open letter signed by 49 presidents of national associations in Europe claimed that hundreds of middle-sized and smaller clubs may go out of

David Powell finds
a powerful advocate
for changes feared by
most football clubs

existence if the present transfer system is abolished. The present system ensures that at least six players in every team participating in a European competition are of the club's nationality and that a fee is paid from one club to another when a player is transferred. Sir John is preparing evidence that he expects to indicate that it may be wrong to argue that small clubs would suffer to the extent suggested.

While attending the annual conference of the Central Council of Physical Recreation in Market Bosworth, Sir John said: "We cannot see why any

footballer in Europe should not have the same rights as any of us to move around in Europe at the end of a contract. I should have the right to have it Frenchmen if I want. I will not do that, but I should have the right."

On the question of Newcastle rugby club's threat to take legal action over the Rugby Football Union's insistence on retaining until the end of the season its 120-day qualifying period for transferred players, Sir John indicated that there would be no question of litigation if the threat of relegation this season was lifted, thereby removing the urgent need to field his new players. "We understand there may not be relegation from the second division," Sir John said. "That decision will be made on December 14 and we are quite prepared to wait until then."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

AGNOSIA

(a) Freud's term (*Zur Auffassung der Aphasien*, 1891) for loss of perception. From the Greek *agnosia* ignorance, *a-* privative + *gnosis* knowledge. "Agnosia is found in relation with the senses: auditory agnosia, gustatory agnosia, olfactory agnosia, optic agnosia, and tactile agnosia."

AGLEY

(c) Asquith, askew, awry. Scottish dialect from *a-* privative + *glee* or *gley*. Robert Burns, *To a Mouse*, in *Poems*, 1785: "The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men, Gang aft agley."

BOUVARDIA

(a) Any plant of the rubiaceous genus of this name, which was introduced from Mexico and Central America, bearing handsome red, yellow, or white flowers. An eponym of Dr Charles Bouvard (died 1658), superintendent of the Jardin du Roi, Paris. "The garden, with odorous bouvardias all awake."

DAUNCY

(b) Sticky, delicate, not robust, United States dialect, a variant of *damsie*. "He ain't one o' yer skim-milk, dauncy ones. He's as stout as a young bull."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Nd6! exd6; 2. Qxg6 and the mate threat on h7 cannot be dealt with.

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RADIO CHOICE

A few words about epics

Print the Legend, Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

In Christopher Frayling's anatomy of cinema epics, a Hollywood director calls them descendants of *The Illiad*. In terms of action, he may be right. But there is that little matter of the words, who writes them, and who speaks them. Peter Ustinov asked director Mervyn LeRoy how he should play Nero in *Quo Vadis?* "Nero!" echoed LeRoy. "Son of a bitch!" As for those unspeakable Italian costume epics made in the 1960s, they sounded to one critic like an Italian strip cartoon translated into basic English by a defective word-wired robot. Gore Vidal, one of the army of writers who worked on *Ben-Hur* says, tongue in cheek, that to draw a parallel with the American War of Independence, he suggested that all the Romans be played by plummy-accented Brits.

The Barchester Chronicles: The Warden, Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Radio has a long way to go before its classic serials are launched with the same fanfares as televised classics such as *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Middlemarch*. Yet, this two-part radio version of *The Warden* is no less well adapted (by Martyn Wade), acted, and directed (by Cherry Cookson) than its mighty television cousins. Also, the pictures are just as striking. I have more good news. Radio 4 is to serialise the remaining five Barchester novels as well. As Septimus Harding, Alec McCowen is every bit as unworried as Donald Pleasence in BBC's *The Barchester Chronicles*. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00am Clive Warren 6.00 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Funnell, including at 12.30-12.45 Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, at 6.15 The Net and at 6.30 The Mix 7.00 The Essential Selection, with Pete Tong 10.00 John Peel 1.00 Radio 1 Rap Show

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce, incl at 10.00 Pick the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thorne 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Durn 7.00 Today's the Day 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 Russ Conway 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 News with Words Literary Festival: Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.00am Digby Fawcett 1.00 Charles Nova

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing 8.35 The Magazine, and Euronews and at 11.00 Chain Reaction 12.00 Midday with Blair, incl at 12.30pm Monychat and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Rescue on Five, incl at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.25 spot 7.35 Parkinson on Sport 9.05 American Graffiti 9.35 Stop Press 10.05 Entertainment Superhighway 11.00 Night Extra, incl at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Watt 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Rasmussen 4.00 Scott Chesholm and Loni Turner 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Moe Dee 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00-4.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 World News 7.15 On the Spot: Middlemarch 7.30 Heritage 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Music Review 9.00 News in German 9.30 Newsday 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsday 10.30 BBC English 10.45 On the Spot: Middlemarch 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Meridian 12.00 News 12.30 Science 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack: Alternative 3.00 News in German 3.15 Music Review 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsday 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 8.00 Newsday 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 People and Politics 10.00 Newsday 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 World News 11.10 Spotlight 11.15 Heritage 11.45 The Farming World Midday Newsday 12.30 From the Weeklies 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Seven Days 1.30 Jazz 1.45 Good Books 2.00 Newsday 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 World News 3.15 Sport 3.30 The View 3.45 Evening Concert: Music by Purcell 4.30-4.45 Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Harry Kelly 12.00 Susanah Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crook 6.00 Newsday 8.30 Sonata 7.00 Newsday 8.30-8.45 Evening Concert: Music by Purcell 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Robert Booth

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 6.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Howard Pascoe

RADIO 3

5.00am On Air With Andrew McGregor, Elbow (Parloia No 5 in G minor), Strauss (Sinfonia Domestica), Arne (Caristia: The Morning), 7.30 Symphony Series: Mozart (Symphony No 26 in E flat), 9.00 Live! (Chamber: La belle Helene), Prokofiev (Moulin Concerto No 1) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini: Handel Organ Concerto in F, The Cuckoo and the Nightingale; Dvorak (Symphony No 6 in D) 10.00 Musical Encounters, Purcell (The Magician's Dance; Pluto Arise, Circle; Wagner (Schmerzen, Wesendonck Lieder), 10.10 Artist of the Week: John Lill, piano, Prokofiev (Piano Sonata No 7); 10.30 Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 6 in B minor, Pathétique), Mahler (Jubilate); Vardi (Willow Song: Ave Maria, Otelio); Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini) 12.00 Greatest Ever Composer of the Week: Maw Shahnema, String Quartet No 3 1.00pm Bristol Lunchtime Concert: Bartok Plus, introduced by Chris de Souza, Catherine King, mezzo; Jacob Heringman and Jessica Gordon, lutes; Susanna Pell, bass viol. Songs and instrumental music from 16th-century Hungary, including works by Balazs Balazs and Sebastian Tinodi, are contrasted with folk-influenced pieces by Bartok 2.00 Schools: Let's Make a Story 2.15 Music Box 2.30 Dance Workshop 2.50 Poetry Corner

3.00 Mining the Archive. The Emigrants. New series about Continental composers who emigrated to Britain. Their home: 4.20 Palestrina: Tunes of the Century. Elele and Doris Walters 4.30 Two Indian Virgins, Gipsy Devi and Buddhadasa Das Gupta (P) 5.00 The Music Machine. Tommy Pearson follows two young students taking Grade 8 examinations. 5.15 In Time. Quiliter (Children's Overture); Mozart (Piano Concerto in F minor); Chopin (Piano Concerto No 2 in F minor) 7.30 BBC Philharmonic under Ferdinand Klee, with Linda Fimbert-Rose, with Linda Liverpool Philharmonic Choir; Manchester Boys' Choir; Mahler (Symphony No 3) 9.30 Concert Theatre of the Mind. Michael Ignatieff examines autism 9.55 Hear and Now: In Memory of Luigi Nono, from the Town Hall, Huddersfield. Nono (A Pierre, Dell'azzurro silenzio, inquietum); Brian Ferneyhough (Mnemotopyne); Nono (Dis attrance, Klarsen). Also includes part of a concert given yesterday by Ensemble Contrechamps under Heinz Holliger, featuring music by Brian Ferneyhough, Elliott Carter and Heinz Holliger 12.00-1.00am Festival tele: Britanniis at the Opera. Arthur Benjamin's A Tale of Two Cities. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Anne Manson; Scottish Opera Chorus (P)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing, incl Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Weather in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. The writer Nigel Nicholson is the castaway (P) 9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunley 10.00-10.30 News; Print the Legend (FM only) See Choice 10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only) 10.15 This Scepter'd Isle (LW only). The first political parties 10.30 Women's Hour, introduced by Sarah Dunant. Serial: Patricia Hodge reads: The Misses Malfitt by E. H. Benson, abridged by Pat McLoughlin (8/12) 11.30 The Natural History Programme, presented by Joanna Pinnock 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Chris Cribb 12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (P) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: The Classic Serial: The Barchester Chronicles, See Choice 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope Tim Marlowe sees Ian Heggie's new play, An Experienced Woman Goes Adrift and The Male Order, an exhibition of men's fashion 4.45 Short Story: The Alchemist's Other Dream, by Saul Miller. Read by Giles Thomas (P)

5.00 PM, with Jon Sopel and Jackie Hargrave 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Going Places David Stafford explores ideas for the weekend 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week, with Janny Eder 8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical discussion in Ockham with Baroness Blackstone, Labour Foreign Affairs spokesperson in the House of Lords; Bae Campbell, journalist and broadcaster; David Curry, MP, Minister for Local Government; and Archy Kirkwood, MP 8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel Berins 9.15 Letter from America, by Alister Cook 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. Brian Sibley presents a special programme on the writer Terry Pratchett, one of the most gifted humorists of his generation (P) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Inside the Endless by Anthony Burgess, abridged by Alison Joseph (2/12) 11.05 Week Ending 11.25 Tea-Justice Patrick Harman and guests take a sceptical look at the week's events 11.45 Today in Parliament 12.00 News incl 12.27 Weather 12.30am The Late Book Bright Lights, Big City, by Jay McInerney (5/9) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8, RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4. FM 4-54.8; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 908, WORLD SERVICE. MW 593, LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1187, 1215, TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089, Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian McGary, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

صحنه من الاصل

No frocks but plenty of infamous docs

How I miss *The House of Eliott*. Oh Bea, oh Evie, where are you, come back. Remember the bustle of the fitting rooms, the lovely gowns, and the delighted cry of "Jack!" six times an episode? Tilly in her glasses; Midge in a huff; disaffected workers running out into the street and being knocked down by vehicles travelling at 15 miles per hour. Every week your new collection was a fabulous success. But now you have gone for ever, and your pins lie still in the sewing boxes, scraps of violet chiffon flutter in the draught. Most mornings I wake up with a damp pillow, and you are the cause. Come back, Evie. Come back, Bea.

Sorry about that, but I feel sure you will agree that it's good to get things off your chest occasionally. So, with only a trace of a sob, let's get down to *Doctors in the Dock* (BBC2), a low-key series of half-hour programmes in which *The*

House of Eliott (gone but not forgotten) has no bearing whatsoever. Each week in *Doctors in the Dock*, we learn the details of another cause célèbre of medical ethics, in which a smug-looking doctor claims not to understand why he was disciplined by the General Medical Council. Last night the issue was "Kidneys for Sale", the particular Waterloo of two specialists, Richard Crockett and Michael Bewick, though only Crockett was struck off. At the time of their hearing, the sale of human organs was not illegal, actually — but mainly because nobody had thought of it.

Where was I? A version of Louise Lombard is a headband just shimmered across my memory, obliterating all else. Oh yes, *Doctors in the Dock*. Min. Well, last night's programme was, to be honest, rather less gripping than the first instalment last week, which concerned a doctor struck

off for having affairs with female patients. Ingeniously, he claimed that in all his medical training, nobody ever told him about moral conduct, only about coughs and sneezes. As a defence, however, this was less than airtight, so now he sat on a sofa with his wife (formerly a patient) and pulled faces while she spoke, possibly believing he was not in shot.

"What have we done wrong?" his wife pleaded. "We fell in love, what's the difference that we met this way?" The question was rhetorical but from behind the camera, a voice delightfully replied, "Because he was a doctor." Good grief.

Members of the medical profession are tragically over-represented by television already, but that's not stopped anybody. Public Eye (BBC2) last night concerned Brian McKinnon, the infamous Scottish



Lynne Truss

30-year-old so keen to join the medical that he went back to school and resat his higher under a different name. Now he talked about this cunning play for the first time, and apart from a rather unpleasant facial resemblance to Marina Navratilova, came across as a good bloke with no harm in him who simply didn't want to waste his life.

The only peculiar thing was the

insistence of his chirpy interviewer, Jackie Bird, that Brian had achieved a universal dream of second chances — "If I knew then what I know now, 'Youth is wasted on the young', 'If I could do it all over again'. Poor woman. Brian shrugged and smiled. Apparently he had heard this question before. But surely his adventure was quite the other thing — a dream from which the average adult wakes, yelling 'Thank God it's not true!' Go back to school! Wear those socks! Sit on the floor in assembly, and get up with mashed potato stuck to your bum? Not for a guaranteed consultancy in Harley Street.

Brian still hopes someone will allow him to train as a doctor. If ethical matters are still extracurricular, I don't see why not. The poor man has been struck off before he started. Meanwhile, he should sell his story for a drama, which will at least keep him

supplied with toy stethoscopes. And if it's any help to you, Brian — Bea and Evie suffered their setbacks too, in the early days.

Thankfully, *Roughnecks* (BBC1) returned to form last night, although I feel I must object to the continued non-appearance of Kary Murphy, who figures so strongly in the weekly opening credits. Last night gambling fever took hold of the Osprey, with the men choosing ever more unlikely venues for their poker school, including the inside of a lifeboat. The camera scanned through metal walkways, and found the gamblers dramatically underlit on a lower deck, with steam and pipes around them, and churning sea beneath. The famous floating crap game in *Guns and Dolls* was deliberately evoked, but although a play on words suggests itself, involving the debris on the surface of the North Sea, mercifully

it shall not be pursued. Anyway, the episode ended with a spectacular accident, and about time too. Crane-driver novice Village (Hywel Simons) dropped a huge canister of something from a great height. It broke through the deck and all the lights went out. Whoops. To look on the bright side, this diversion may have saved the day for Cinders (the wonderful Ricky Tomlinson) who had just received an "NRB" warning from the boss.

Apparently, the worst punishment a roughneck can receive is "NRB", meaning "Not Required Back" — which is presumably what was also stamped on the medical degrees of the struck-off doctors and the forehead of Brian McKinnon. But I can't bear it. Did those lovely Eliott sisters get an "NRB" too? No, no! It was never true that you were not required back, Evie! You do believe me, don't you?

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (10366)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (94346183)
9.10 Kilroy. Topical discussion (s) (4978231)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (Ceefax) (53333182) 10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook with Anselmo Harriot (s) (4635750)
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (56518)
12.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (9338434) 12.05pm Pebble Mill Special: Children in Need from Disneyland Paris (s) (4494182) 12.50 Regional news and weather (23101434)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) (91182)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (25168873)
1.55 Columbo (1) (Ceefax) (7168911)
3.05 Incongruity. Game show (s) (1732347)
3.30 Orville and Cuddles (s) (5623057) 3.35 Robinson Sucroe (Ceefax) (s) (5656347) 4.00 The Itchy Bit Spider (s) (6945415) 4.10 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (Ceefax) (s) (2021927) 4.35 Record Breakers (Ceefax) (s) (1587521) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (5516927)

5.10 Blue Peter presented by Tim Vincent, Diane-Louise Jordan, Katy Hill and Stuart Miles (Ceefax) (s) (5102328)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (Ceefax) (s) (918982)
6.00 Six O'Clock News. (Ceefax). Weather (347)
6.30 Regional news magazines (927)
7.00 Children in Need. (Ceefax) (s) (59347)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Peter Sarsini. (Ceefax). Regional news and weather (7415)
9.30 Children in Need. The fundraising entertainment continues with Terry Wogan threatening to sing a jungle version of *The Floral Dance*. Robert Green and Jerome Flynn of *Skins*, *Sobering Up* on the Roof, while actors from *Backpack*, *Casualty* and *London's Burning* display their own musical talents. The Britas Empire's Chris Barrie teams up with the boxer Frank Bruno. During the programme, Jane Asher, television critics Anselmo Harriot and Brian Turner, and Dale Winton will invite viewers to rub numbered panels in their *Smell-O-Vision* booklets. Real items will be dropping in on the proceedings. There is music from *Eternal* who will be singing their new single *I Am Blessed*, and dancers from the West End musical *Riverdance* will perform a selection of spectacular routines. Regional bulletins will continue throughout the night. (Ceefax) (s) (25198298)

11.35 Regional Children in Need (721881)
12.00 Children in Need: Late Night with Pudsey. Martin Clunes and Neil Morrison from *Men Behaving Badly* present an alternative view of the evening so far. Bob Nye, a television presenter, Armando Iannucci presents a Saturday Morning *Amistice*, while Anabel Gibbs presents an amusing guide to finding Mr Right. Music is provided by Supergay and Mexican dance by Ma Carera. In the early hours, the cast of the West End musical *Buddy* will give a song and dance finale. (Ceefax) (s) (39598) 2.00am Weather (733498)



Vincent, Jordan, Hill and Miles (5.10pm)

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BBC2

5.00am Technology Season: Metropolis (37521) 5.30 Nature by Design (47873)
7.00 Breakfast News (with signing) (4670415)
7.15 Lassie (8460858) 7.40 The Legend of Prince Valiant (1) (Ceefax) (s) (1812296) 8.05 Smart (1) (Ceefax) (s) (463434)
8.35 The Record. Yesterday in Parliament (s) (428618)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children. 10.00-10.25 Playdays (81453)
2.00 Puddle Puddle Bird (1) (s) (4763266)
2.10 Sport on Friday. Women's hockey Olympic qualifying tournament and triathlon world championships from Mexico (s) (953095)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (540)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (724)
5.00 Esther discusses what makes us laugh (s) (6328)
5.30 Going Going Gone. Auction game (s) (798)
6.00 The Munchies (b/w) (Ceefax) (442786)
6.25 The New Avengers: Faces. Camp special agent adventures starring Patrick Macnee, Gareth Hunt and Joanna Lumley. (Ceefax) (425811)
7.15 Football, Football, Football (375740)
8.00 Top Gear Motorsport. Includes Tiff Needell reporting on the first half of the 14-round German Touring Car Championship. (Ceefax) (s) (8540)
6.30 Jancis Robinson's Wine Course: Grapes in Ferment. (Ceefax) (s) (4347)
9.00 Not the Nine O'Clock News. Comedy sketch show from the 1980s (1) (Ceefax) (5057)

10.00 Have I Got News for You. Satirical quiz show with Angus Deayton, Teresa Gorman, MP, and Neil Morrisey join team captains Ian Heston and Paul Merton (s) (17095)
10.30 Newswatch with Peter Snow. (Ceefax) (578366)
11.15 Don't Give Up Your Day Job. Paul Brophy presents the talent show (s) (610908). WALE: 11.15 Welsh Lobby (610908)
11.45 Weather (361502). WALE: 11.45 Don't Give Up Your Day Job. (619279) 12.15am Weather (3870361) 12.20 The Beat of the Real McCoy (5151309) 12.30-3.35 FILM: Scenes from a Marriage (43821458) Ends at 3.10

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CHOICE

Dressing For Breakfast Channel 4, 9.00pm
With a woman writer, Stephanie Calman, and female leads, *Dressing For Breakfast* is a spirited riposte to such male-centred sitcoms as *Men Behaving Badly*. As such, it may appeal more to a female audience. At its heart is Louise (Louise Edgely), thirtyish and single, who has just been stood up by her boyfriend. She would like a relationship but only on her terms. She is envious of her best friend (Holly Aird), whose partner does what he is told, and pined for her mum (Charlotte Cornwell) is defying the menopause to marry a handsome Italian. The show has a lively pace. Edgely and Aird are shaping well as a double act and Calman's unflinching script proves that women can talk just as dirty as men.

3.20 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (9367182)
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (9342873) 1.25 Coronation Street (1) (Teletext) (25234971) 1.55 Shortland Street (s) (9259078) 2.20 The Chrysalis Rose Show. A discussion on eating disorders (s) (70748705) 2.50 High Road (Teletext) (2208347)
3.20 ITN News (Teletext) (8401163)
3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8400434)
3.30 Jays World (s) (5436328) 3.40 St Tiggywinkles (5449882) 3.55 The Spooks of Bottle Bay (s) (5234085) 4.15 Freakazoid! (8858618) 4.40 Fun House (Teletext) (s)
5.10 After 5 With Carol Keating. (Teletext) (7538611)
5.40 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (997705)
6.00 Home and Away (1). (Teletext) (482540)
6.25 London Tonight (Teletext) (952540)
7.00 Family Fortunes. The White family from London pit their wits against the Hardman family from Darlington. (Teletext) (s) (3618)
7.30 Coronation Street. Can Reg beat the odds, and his mother-in-law? (Teletext) (279)
8.00 The Bill. A woman drowned in her own bath raises Monroe's suspicions. Was it an accident or murder? With Colin Tarrant. (Teletext) (2366)

Children in Need BBC1, 7.00pm
Bravely trying to pick up any loose cash left over from flutters on the National Lottery, *Children in Need* offers its usual marathon of Terry Wogan, Sue Cook, stars making fools of themselves in unfamiliar guises and reports on how last year's money was spent. The novelty this time is something called Smell-O-Vision. This does not mean that your set will give off delicate fragrances. It does involve buying a small book (part of the proceeds to the appeal) and scratching the appropriate places at the appropriate time. The idea is being extended to other BBC programmes, including *Noel's House Party*, *Jim Davidson's Generation Game* and a Reeves and Mortimer wildlife farrago called *A Nose Through Nature*.

Jancis Robinson's Wine Course: Grapes in Ferment BBC2, 8.30pm
Despite the title, Jancis Robinson's well-informed and admirably unpretentious series has been much more about the wine industry than passing on tips to the drinker. The final programme continues the theme. Robinson highlights the paradox that while people care more about wine than ever, they are drinking less. Even in France, consumption has fallen by half over the past 30 years and growers are being paid by Brussels to tear up their vineyards. Another irony is that while new wine regions are emerging all the time, the products are tasting more and more alike. Robinson's hope is that there will be a return to wines with local personality. She fears we might be stuck with charmonay and cabernet sauvignon.

Football Football Football BBC2, 7.15pm (Scotland: Sunday, 10.00pm)
The national anguish at the failure of British football teams in Europe this season may be temporarily soothed by remembering the time, not very long ago, when it was all so different. If nothing else, John Motson's survey of the 1970s and 1980s should produce a nostalgic glow. When the unfancied Aston Villa managed to lift the European Cup when today's more talented teams stumble and crash at the first hurdle is a mystery that is not resolved here. But it is good to be reminded of Liverpool's awesome run of European success and of the successive triumphs of Brian Clough's superbly organised Nottingham Forest. The clips are augmented by comments from players and managers.

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CARLTON LWT

6.00am GMTV (8673521)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep Quiz (s) (8939705)
9.55 London Today (Teletext) (4835958)
10.00 The Time... The Place. Discussion programme, hosted by John Stapleton (s) (8556095)
10.35 This Morning (72670057) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (9334618)
12.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (9367182)
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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24 1995

Shabby incident underlines declining status



Sherwood, the Blackburn Rovers captain, moves in to separate his warring players, Le Saux, left, and Batty

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IT IS hard to determine whether English club football is held more in contempt than ridicule. Blackburn Rovers went to Moscow on Wednesday with nothing more to lose than their dignity; they managed that quite comfortably. The fight between Graeme Le Saux and David Batty, the England internationals, coming after their reckless collision while chasing the same ball, is seen abroad both as a laughing stock and a reflection on the outmoded, frenzied way that the English play their game.

Coming just a week after Birmingham City's bust-up in Ancona and in the same week that Paul Gascoigne's conduct in Scotland is under investigation, the whole perspective of the game in a country preparing to stage the European championship finals is unwanted and unhealthy.

The Football Association, appalled

that two of its internationals could be seen so ill-disciplined on a televised stage, has asked UEFA, the European governing body, to investigate and punish them. The FA, of course, does not go so far as to ask Terry Venables to drop them from consideration for the international match against Portugal next month.

Why not? The very definition of a professional athlete in a contact sport ought to be control of aggression, control of body and mind. The collision, when Le Saux clattered into the back of Batty, was symptomatic of players rushing faster than the mind dictates, symptomatic of how England is falling short in Europe. Think back to the start of Blackburn's misadventure in the European Cup Champions' League, to the words of Ray Harford, the manager, who, promising typical strong English football, said that we would "see how brave they [the Russians] are".

Brave? They almost laughed themselves silly watching the fisticuffs of

the two intemperate bantamweights. Oleg Romantsev, the Spartak Moscow coach, said: "This was the first time I've seen two people settle their scores on the field with a fist fight. I warned my players they would be against 11 guys ready to fight 90 minutes for each other... but after the fight, I knew that a team so badly split could be beaten easily."

Robson's final chance 44
Aldershot fired up 44

Indeed they were, all three Russian goals coming down the flank supposedly guarded by Le Saux and Batty. Blackburn's own reaction is muted. "The club are disappointed with this incident," Rob Coar, the chairman, said yesterday. "Ray Harford will sit down with the players tomorrow [Friday] and if disciplinary action is deemed necessary, it will be carried out internally." That sounds painful.

but most speculation surrounds a fine of two weeks' wages to each of them, to Le Saux for the punch aimed at the head of his team-mate, to Batty for the words that apparently sparked the fisticuffs, words allegedly impugning Le Saux's manhood.

It would be laughable if it were not in a game with such serious implications. League clubs are trying to sell themselves as places of tuition for boys from nine years of age upwards, under the new FA coaching blueprint. Parents will be as concerned about discipline as whatever skills unskilled players may pass on.

In addition, England, believe it or not, fares well in UEFA's fair play philosophy; indeed, an extra place in the UEFA Cup this season was gained because of it.

However, there are precedents suggesting that over-aggression is part and parcel of the professional macho. Bruce Grobbelaar was twice "internally" disciplined by Liverpool for his agitated behaviour

towards his team-mates, and Graham Moseley and Graham Pearce of Brighton, were booked at Old Trafford after fighting in 1981.

Mention Old Trafford and Eric Cantona comes to mind. He was fined by Auxerre for punching his goalkeeper and banned by Montpellier for assaulting a team-mate.

Cantona, in each case, had somewhere else to go, ultimately a more forgiving country, England. "There is a frenzy in British football," Johan Cruyff once observed. "They run and run when sometimes it would be better to slow down, to think about where they run and why." That comment, 21 years ago, has yet to penetrate the skulls of some professionals. Le Saux and Batty have not grasped it, but yesterday so many more in the Premiership were asking what all the fuss is about? They claim that barely a week goes by on the training field without someone or other "having a go". Contempt, or ridicule?

Surrey pair score centuries

Ramprakash fast running out of chances

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN BLOEMFONTEIN

BLOEMFONTEIN (first day of three; England XI won the toss): Free State, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 280 runs behind an England XI

AFTER five days without cricket, England would have settled for small mercies when the sun finally shone again yesterday. They did better than that, nourished by centuries from Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe, but their darkest cloud refused to shift. Mark Ramprakash failing familiarly in the No 3 position, for which there is still no convincing claimant.

Ramprakash, of course, is not best judged on games such as these. Everyone knows that he can dominate when the bowling is ordinary and the occasion undemanding, as was certainly the case here, and yet his inability to exploit a depleted Free State attack on a bland pitch is not the prep-

aration that he required for a Test match next week in which he will be batting for his England future.

Ramprakash is running out of time to avoid the dreaded epitaph of "unfulfilled enigma". Yesterday, he played a leaden-footed off-side shot at a ball from Chris Craven that demanded either being hit purposefully for four or left alone. A similarly innocuous ball dismissed him in the first Test, in Pretoria, though this time his crooked bat dragged the ball into his stumps. He had made 15, which was worryingly insufficient for a man in his position.

The stark difference between ability and accomplishment meant that nobody worried much when Michael Atherton was out for nought. He was caught at gully, off the shoulder of the bat, in the third over, and it appeared to be virtually the only ball that misbehaved all day. Atherton

shrugged it off, blaming himself, but in his case there is no cause to doubt that it will be all right on the night.

Five years ago, Mike Gatting, another England captain, left his impression on Bloemfontein by describing the hostile demonstrations that accompanied the last of the "rebel" tours as "just a bit of singing and dancing". Mortified by the reaction, he admitted to David Graveney, his tour manager: "I think I may have put my foot in it."

Despite admission prices equating to 60p, there were not enough people in Springbok Park yesterday to constitute a quorum for a demonstration. This is rugby country, and even the State's two Castle Cup triumphs in the past three years, and the accession of Hansie Cronje, symbol of Free State Afrikaans, to national cricket captain, has evidently not shifted the loyalties of the locality.

So, Atherton wandered back to respectful silence from the few dozen present, and the rest of his batsmen, Ramprakash apart, made hay. The last qualities of this pitch are such that, twice in the past 12 months, Free State have scored upwards of 360 in the fourth innings to win. If Allan Donald knew what to expect, it is small wonder that he is sitting out the game, and for Devon Malcolm, who rushed in willingly but unavailingly for the final half-hour, it is the last surface on which he would have chosen to prove his potency.

Free State, fielding no bowler of great pace, introduced the left-arm spin of Nicky Boje for the ninth over, and he wheeled away for most of the day. Though his flight was teasing, there was no purchase for spin, and England allowed him to contain them longer than was necessary. A sign that neither Stewart nor Thorpe, the Surrey pair, was instantly in mid-season form.



Radley, the Free State wicketkeeper, watches as Thorpe hits a square drive on his way to an unbeaten 131 at Springbok Park yesterday

Stewart has been falling exaggeratedly to the off side, a fault that he cured as the innings progressed, while Thorpe's compulsion to thrash impatiently when the ball is full was only gradually sedated. For him, the time in the middle was precious; his four previous innings on tour had yielded only 39 runs. His confidence, understandably low, seeped slowly back over 4½ hours, and if this game

achieves nothing more than that, it will have been worthwhile.

There is an infallible gauge of when Stewart feels on top of his game: he begins to twiddle his bat with jaunty vigour between balls. There was a good deal of this as lunchtime approached, and Raymond Illingworth, doubtless reassured, strode onto the grass hill that arcs around one half of this ground and removed

his shirt — a manager at ease if ever there was one.

Thorpe's importance to the side was demonstrated by the whoops of approval that came from the England dressing-room as his cover drive emerged, well oiled, after lunch. By the time that Stewart reached his century, with his twentieth four, it had become so hard to envisage another wicket falling that Stewart exchanged hand signals with his captain about the advisability of retiring.

Atherton told him to keep going, but Stewart had now run out of steam and, having spent 52 minutes adding only ten, he heaved clumsily at Boje and was leg-before. Smith, caught down the leg side by Radley, the bespectacled wicketkeeper, was the only other casualty, before Crawley helped to set up a declaration that, for him, came frustratingly early.

Eager England A, page 44

SCOREBOARD FROM BLOEMFONTEIN

ENGLAND XI: First Innings	15-51-1; Cronje 8-0-31-0; Venner 9-1-20-0
*M A Atherton c Wilkinson	0
D J Jordan not out	110
M R Ramprakash b Craven	15
G P Thorpe not out	131
R A Smith c Radley b Bakes	27
J P Crawley not out	28
Extras (lb 2, w 2, nb 1)	5
Total (4 wickets)	316
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-45, 3-186, 4-240	
D G Cook, M C Illingworth, P J Martin and D E Malcolm did not bat	
Bowling: Pretorius 17-3-79-1; Bakes 16-3-42-1; Boje 34-5-14-11-1; Craven 16-3-42-1	

Umpires: C J Michiey and S B Lambson

Snooker pockets lucrative BBC deal

Phil Yates says a new contract will secure the sport's future into the next century

The Ryder Cup, live FA Cup, Premiership football and England's Test cricket overseas may be exclusively available to subscribers of Sky Sports, but snooker, whose prosperity is inextricably linked with its exposure on television, yesterday announced a lucrative long-term deal with the BBC.

It is understood that the corporation, whose six-year, £11 million contract expires next May, has paid £18 million to retain coverage of the Embassy world championship, snooker's blue riband event, along with the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship, Benson and Hedges Masters and Skoda Grand Prix until 2001.

Sky was involved in negotiations for the same package of tournaments with the board of the World Professional

Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA). It is believed, Waistoated men, playing in cathedral-like silence, often late into the night, have been an integral part of British sporting culture since the BBC instituted daily live programmes from the world championship in 1978. Loyalty is likely to have played a role.

More significantly, the WPBSA was justifiably worried that, if BBC lost the rights to transmit its annual 17-day green-ball marathon at the Crucible, it might plug the snooker slot together. With ITV having shown its last event in March 1993, a scenario would have left the

sport without any terrestrial television coverage.

As Sky attracts smaller — if growing — audiences, long-standing sponsors will also be pleased to see such an extension of the BBC contract. Many have pledged additional prize-money for their respective tournaments through to 2001, which makes the real value of the deal closer to £40 million for snooker overall. For its part, the WPBSA has pressed for certain concessions, such as earlier evening slots, perimeter advertising in arenas and for players to wear logos.

The new agreement is expected to secure the future of the Crucible Theatre as the

home of the world championship. With Sky's liking for a multi-table format, the intimate Sheffield venue might have been deemed unsuitable. Cynics have insisted that snooker is not the attraction it was when 18.5 million tuned in at twenty minutes after midnight to witness Dennis Taylor beat Steve Davis 18-17 on the black to capture the 1985 world title.

In many respects, that viewing figure has been an albatross around the neck of snooker. If the advent of satellite and cable channels is taken into account, leaving a declining share of total audiences, BBC snooker figures have remained a testimony to the sport's popularity, with 13.4 million watching Stephen Hendry defeat Jimmy White in the conclusion to the 1993 world championship.

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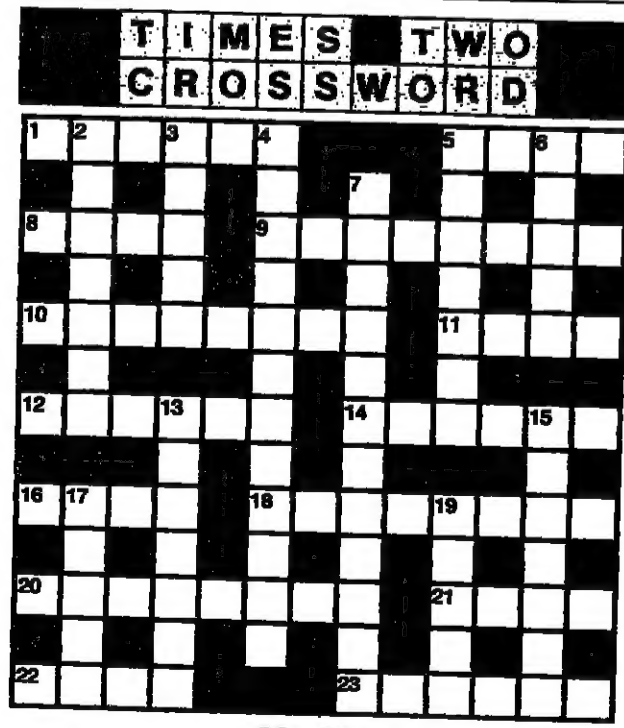
USA	10p	29p	66%
India	68p	96p	29%
South Africa	40p	62p	35%
Hong Kong	35p	56p	38%
Japan	40p	75p	46%
Australia	25p	45p	44%
Brazil	64p	85p	25%
Canada	17p	29p	41%
Germany/France	18p	22p	18%

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No 635

- ACROSS
- 1 Casual statement (6)
 - 5 Except; keep (4)
 - 8 Side of mansion (4)
 - 9 Salve (8)
 - 10 Appalachian Indian (8)
 - 11 Improvised accompaniment; stren (4)
 - 12 Intervene (4,2); without fastening (4,2)
 - 14 Spoil, die (6)
 - 15 Profit (4)
 - 16 (Marxist) civil struggle (5,3)
 - 20 A pudding (5,3); excellent (ford) (5,3)
 - 21 Play ball on green (4)
 - 22 Lively; suggestive (4)
- DOWN
- 2 Descriptive word (7)
 - 3 Severe displeasure (5)
 - 4 Disparaging advertisement (8,4)
 - 6 Russian tea-urn (7)
 - 7 Snake poison (5)
 - 13 Perilously placed (2,4,6)
 - 17 Punishment: award after infringement (7)
 - 18 Cause to jump (7)
 - 19 First Greek letter (5)
 - 23 Outstanding (5)

The solution to 634 will be published Wednesday, November 29

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